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Contents

Love Prevails (Part One) 5

Side Story M Is for Mwe Ha Ha 31

Love Prevails (Part Two) 57

Love Prevails (Part Three) 82

A Healthy Crime 123

Golden Week 149

Holiday 175

Here Is Greenwood 203

Here is Greenwood
Vol. 9
Shôjo Edition
Story and Art by Yukie Nasu

English Adaptation/Mayumi Kobayashi
Touch-up Art & Lettering/James Gaubatz
Cover and Interior Design/Izumi Evers
Editor/Shannon K. Gerrity

Managing Editor/Annette Roman
Director of Production/Noboru Watanabe
VP of Publishing/Alvin Lu
Sr. Director of Acquisitions/Rika Inouye
VP of Sales & Marketing/Lars Coppola
Publisher/Hyoe Narita

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Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, March 2006

viz media
www.viz.com
store.viz.com

PARENTAL ADVISORY
HERE IS GREENWOOD is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains suggestive situations and mild language.

LOVE PREVAILS
(PART ONE)

Here is Greenwood Guide to Honorifics

"Sempai"
Used to address more senior members of an organization. In a school, students in grades higher than the speaker are addressed as (their name here)-*sempai*. The honorific used to address students in lower grades is *kohai*. These honorifics are used in many other Japanese institutions, such as company offices.

"Sempai/kohai relationship"
Since *Here is Greenwood* takes place in a school, the *sempai/kohai* relationship is a crucial aspect of the lives of the students. It is much like a Western mentor/protégé relationship, but on a school-wide scale. *Sempai*, the senior students, are expected to look after the interests of their *kohai* and guide them: help them with their problems, give them referrals, and be their counselors. *Kohai* are expected to respect their *sempai*, do chores or menial tasks, follow orders, and learn.

Diminutives and nicknames
Like western nicknames, most Japanese nicknames are shortened versions of full names, sometimes with the honorific *-chan* or *-kun* tacked at the end. Sumire calls her husband "Hiro-kun," shortened from Kazuhiro-kun; similarly, she calls her brother-in-law "Yakkun," shortened and slightly changed from Kazuya-kun. "Suka-chan" (pronounced ska-chahn) is a similar diminutive taken from Hasukawa, except that the word "suka" is also a not-so-common insult approximately equivalent to "baka" (fool).

–William Flanagan

LOVE PREVAILS
(PART ONE)

SLAP
I TREAT OTHER KIDS JUST LIKE MY OWN!
YOU'D BETTER PULL YOUR WEIGHT!
AW, DON'T BE A WIMP!
SHOW SOME GUTS!
KAZUYA HASUKAWA HAS LANDED A PART-TIME JOB AT KORYUJI TEMPLE, HELPING WITH THE YEAR-END CLEANING.
RIGHT THIS WAY.
SO THAT'S MITSURU'S MOM...
Yikes.
GRANDPA! WE'RE HERE!
FIRST ...
...LET'S TAKE DOWN THE SLIDING DOORS.
SURE THING.
OH ...
That's Mitsuru's grandfather...
GOOD! YOU MADE IT!
Hello.

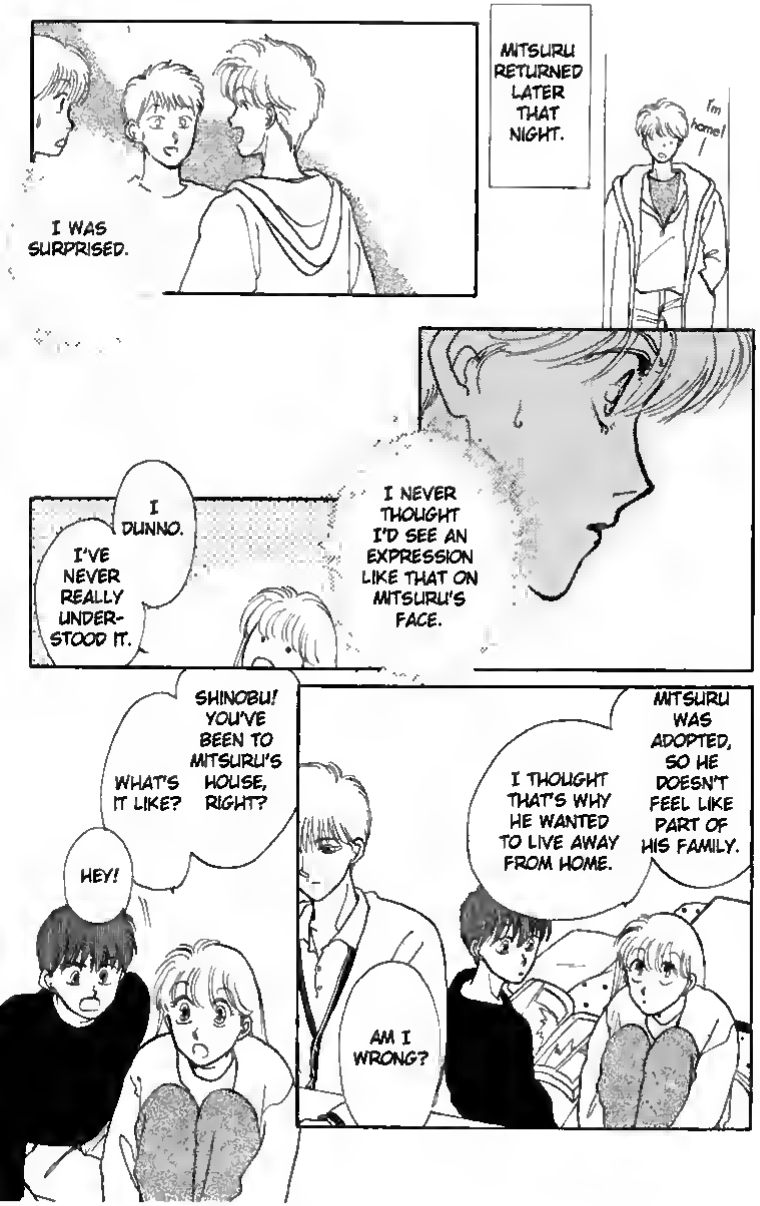
DECEMBER 27TH...
IKEDA
I'M HOME!
ARE YOU HASU-KAWA?
YES, MA'AM.
OH, HELLO. WELCOME!
I BROUGHT A HELPING HAND.
WEL-COME HOME!
SURE.
JUST GO EASY ON ME ...
MITSURU'S TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TODAY.

SHAA...
...THERE WAS AN INCIDENT.
PIPIPIPI
HUH? A HURRICANE WARNING?
IT'S ON THE NEWS!
ISN'T IT TOO COLD FOR A CLASS TRIP?
WHOA ...
?
TAK

OH, HI.
WELCOME.
SHO!
SHO
THIS IS MY LITTLE BROTHER MASATO.
EVERYONE CALLS HIM SHO.
SO ...
...THIS IS THE INFAMOUS YOUNGER BROTHER.
THIS IS HASUKAWA.
AT THE END OF NOVEMBER..
WE CAN RIP UP THESE SHOJI SCREENS, RIGHT?
SURE.
NICE!
GTA
YEAH, YEAH.
HURRY UP!
TIME'S A-WASTIN'!

He didn't have to bash him in the head with a book...
That's harsh!
BETTER NOW?
UH ...
YEAH ...
WHACK
CALLING SOME-ONE?
WHERE?
I ...
I HAVE TO GO!
HUH? NO...
SLAM
GOOD.
YOU'RE MAKING SOME SENSE.
NO... I'LL NEVER GET THROUGH NOW...
THANKS
HERE.
CHAK

GRAB
HUH?
DAK
WHAT THE—
DADAK
WHAT'S GOING ON?
Out of the way!
Bus Accident
carrying 38 Students
Ueno Minami High S
MIT-SURU?
GRP
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT IS IT?
TAK


I WAS SURPRISED.
MITSURU RETURNED LATER THAT NIGHT.
I'm home!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE AN EXPRESSION LIKE THAT ON MITSURU'S FACE.
I DUNNO.
I'VE NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD IT.
SHINOBU! YOU'VE BEEN TO MITSURU'S HOUSE, RIGHT?
WHAT'S IT LIKE?
HEY!
MITSURU WAS ADOPTED, SO HE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE PART OF HIS FAMILY.
I THOUGHT THAT'S WHY HE WANTED TO LIVE AWAY FROM HOME.
AM I WRONG?

...HIS BROTHER'S HIGH SCHOOL!
WAS THAT REALLY MITSURU?
WAIT!
THAT SCHOOL IS...
MITSURU'S YOUNGER BROTHER, BY TWO WEEKS...
I HOPE HE'S OKAY.
DAK
IN THE END...
...THE ACCIDENT WASN'T SERIOUS.
HEY, LOOK!
CONTINUING OUR COVERAGE OF THE BUS ACCIDENT...
TODAY, AT AROUND 5:00 PM, IN YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE...
...AS YOU CAN SEE, THE BUS SKIDDED OFF A SHORT CLIFF AND INTO THE WOODS ONE METER BELOW THE ROAD.
SIX STUDENTS HAVE SUFFERED MILD INJURIES.
MILD
Whew!

I'LL DO IT!
Enjoy. Here, take this, too.
Oh, you like cleaning?
AND THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
HAAAA!
ACHA
ACHA
ACHA
ACHA
YOU'VE GOT TO DO THAT EVERY YEAR, DON'T YOU?
HUH? MITSURU?
HEY.
DOES HE FIT IN OKAY AT SCHOOL?
WAK!
Stop messing around!
Hey!
GEEZ!

IT MAKES ME A BIT UNCOM-FORTABLE.
?
HIS HOME IS A LOT MORE FAMILY-LIKE THAN MINE.
THEY'RE NORMAL BROTHERS.
But I guess your definition of 'normal' may vary.
SO YOU'RE NOT INTER-ESTED?
NO, THAT'S NOT THE ...
IT'S KIND OF RUDE TO STICK YOUR NOSE IN OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS!
Hm.

IF SHINOBU'S RIGHT, WHY DOES MITSURU LIVE HERE IN THE DORM?
HE OBVIOUSLY CARES A LOT ABOUT HIS BROTHER.

YOU CAN HELP WITH OUR WINTER CLEANING.
?
MY MOM SAID SHE'D PAY YOU, SO THINK OF IT AS A JOB.
HUH?
HASUKAWA! YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING OVER WINTER BREAK, ARE YOU?
GOOD. DONE.

JUST AS I WAS THINKING THAT...
Still I guess I can't trust Shinobu's word on anything.

LUNCH-TIME!

YOU'RE SUCH A BIG HELP!

HAVE AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE.

HE TEACHES AT A BUDDHIST SCHOOL.

HUH?

I THOUGHT YOUR DAD WAS A MONK.

...BUT DAD COULDN'T TAKE TIME OFF THIS YEAR.

USUALLY WE CAN MANAGE ...

BUT COMPARED TO SHINOBU...

REALLY?

SHINOBU'S... ENLIGHTENED

NO! EVERYONE AT GREEN-WOOD'S LIKE THAT!

HUH

HE'S NOT THE DORM TYPE.

HUH

HE MUST STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB, WITH ALL HIS CLOWNING AROUND.

YOU SHOULD'VE COME TO RYOKUTO, TOO.

I SEE ...

I DIDN'T THINK I'D PASS, ANYWAY.

IT'S OKAY.

TOTALLY FORGOT HOW HARD HE WORKED TO GET IN.

It's been so long...

YOU SAY THAT LIKE IT'S EASY.

...

OOPS

I FAILED THE ENTRANCE EXAM.

...WHEN I SAW SHINOBU, I THOUGHT, "THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T GET IN."

BUT ...

THUP

BUT I GUESS THE RYOKUTO STUDENTS ARE ALL DIFFERENT.

Makes sense now

WELL, I...
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT WHAT SHO SAID.
ARE YOU GOING TO BE A MONK?
MITSURU?
YEAH?
SHO'S NOT A KID ANYMORE, BUT HE STILL MISSES HIS BROTHER. THAT BOY NEEDS TO GROW UP.
HE'S UPSET THAT HE WENT TO LIVE ON CAMPUS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, HASUKAWA?
HUH? ME?
HE JUST WANTS MITSURU TO STAY AT HOME.
MOM! DON'T TELL THAT TO GUESTS!
THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE...
..EVEN THOUGH THEY FIGHT.
They've broken windows, the fence...
YOU THINK? HE'S TOO OLD FOR IT.
HE'S JUST LONELY.
THAT'S TRUE BROTHERLY LOVE.
SO OLD-FASHIONED...
I... I THINK ...

SIIIP
MITSURU'S GOING TO TAKE OVER.
HE'S THE ELDEST SON.
THEN THE TEMPLE IS...
SLUR
AAAH
Peaceful...
BACK TO CLEANING.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS TEMPLE UNTIL I'M 200 YEARS OLD
Heh
NO ONE WANTS TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE
E—
YOU BOYS DO WHAT YOU WANT.
SHUF
ONE! TWO!
THREE!

THE TEMPLE GROUNDS AND CEMETERY SHRUNK. THAT'S WHY IT'S MORE COMPACT NOW.
VROOM
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, THE CITY EXPANDED THE FRONT ROAD.
I thought it'd look like this.
YOUR FAMILY'S TEMPLE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A NORMAL TEMPLE.
BLAS-PHEMY! IT'S A FINE TEMPLE.
THAT TREE WAS OVER THERE.
THE PATH TO THE SHRINE WAS HERE.
VROOM
THE GATES WERE AROUND THERE.
AND I WAS FOUND RIGHT AROUND HERE.
HUH?
MIT-SURU ...

FOLLOW YOUR HEART.
OKAY?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT SHO AND US.
ANYWAY, YOU DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.
SHO.
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO.
..
DON'T YOU WANT TO BE A MONK?
BUT ...
DRIP
WHOO

SHAK
SHAK
IT'D SUCK TO GET IT SPRUNG ON ME WHEN I WAS OLDER.
I'M GLAD THEY TOLD ME FROM THE GET-GO.
YOU WERE UNDER THE FORSYTHIA.
YOU WERE SURROUNDED BY THE FLOWER PETALS THAT FELL FROM THE TREES IN THE YARD.
YOU WERE SLEEPING SO PEACEFULLY...
NEVER.
DO YOU EVER WONDER ...
...ABOUT YOUR REAL PARENTS?
I NEVER WONDERED WHY I WAS HERE.
AND ...
MIT-SURU'S ONE OF US, RIGHT?
HE'S NOT SOMEONE ELSE'S KID, RIGHT?
...MY FAMILY WAS REALLY OPEN ABOUT SHOWING HOW MUCH THEY LOVED ME...
I LOVE BOTH OF YOU.
YOU CAME TO THIS HOUSE WITH SHO.

NO, BUT I KNOW.
From Shinobu
OH! DIDN'T I EVER TELL YOU?
I WAS TOLD OVER AND OVER, EVER SINCE I WAS A KID.
YOU SEEM TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOURSELF...
SHAK
IT WAS A WARM APRIL DAY...
ALL THE NEIGH-BORS KNEW.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU COULD HIDE EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO.
REALLY? DIDN'T THEY TRY TO HIDE IT?
SHAK
SHAK

YIKES
I KNEW THAT WAS YOUR PLAN.
LOOM
I'M STILL DEPENDENT ON MY PARENTS NOW...
...BUT I WANT TO GET USED TO BEING ON MY OWN.
I KNEW IT.
SHO ...
JING
THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE UP TO ALL ALONG.
JING
IF YOU DON'T LIVE HERE WITH US, THERE'S NOTHING TO SHOW THAT WE'RE BROTHERS!
WHY DO YOU INSIST ON BEING AN OUTSIDER?
SHO.
WHY ARE YOU ...

HE MUST REALLY LOVE HIS FAMILY.
HE'S BLUSHING.
I COULD NEVER BE A DELINQUENT...
THEN ...
...WHY ARE YOU LIVING IN THE DORM?
I WANTED TO LEAVE HOME...
...AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MITSURU'S DAD CAME HOME THAT NIGHT, AFTER WE WERE DONE CLEANING
Thanks a lot for your help.
Sorry I'm late.
CAN AN OUTSIDER BE A BROTHER?
ARE YOU GOING TO SAY YOUR PRAYERS ON NEW YEAR'S?
STOP BY ON YOUR WAY HOME!
LOOKING CLOSELY, MITSURU ISN'T MUCH LIKE THE REST OF HIS FAMILY.
ABOUT WHAT YOU ASKED EARLIER..
I DON'T THINK IT MATTERS.
HM?
Oh.. that!
BUT ...
HEY.

I'M NOT TRYING TO BE AN OUTSIDER. I AM AN OUTSIDER.
FINE, THEN!
YOU IDIOT!
M...
MIT-SURU... THAT WAS...
THE TRUTH IS THE TRUTH.
THERE'S NO POINT IN IGNORING IT.
BUT ...
...WHEN I'M HOME, I ALWAYS WANT TO IGNORE IT.
WELL, HASU-KAWA?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SIDE STORY:
M IS FOR MWA HA HA

SIDE STORY:
M IS FOR MWA HA HA

INSIDE SPACESHIP G.W. (GREENWOOD)
ALL THE AIR-TRAFFIC CONTROL GIRLS WILL BE WEARING KIMONOS.
EVERYONE WILL BE IN HOLIDAY SPIRITS
LET'S SEE... PROBABLY FOUR.
HOW MANY MORE DAYS UNTIL WE ARRIVE?
THE SHIP IS NAVIGATED BY A FULLY AUTOMATED COMPUTER.
NAMED FUZZY.
THE FOUR CREW MEMBERS AND THEIR CAT HAVE FINISHED THEIR PLANETARY SURVEY EXPEDITION AND ARE ON THEIR WAY BACK TO EARTH.
MAKE IT THREE.
CUT ME SOME SLACK. I CAN'T GO ANY FASTER.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR EXCUSES.
SHIP'S OPERATOR: SHINOBU TEZUKA
PRR
*CATS ARE CONSIDERED BENEFICIAL TO MENTAL HEATH AND ARE ALLOWED BY THE BUREAU TO LIVE ON BOARD THE SHIP.

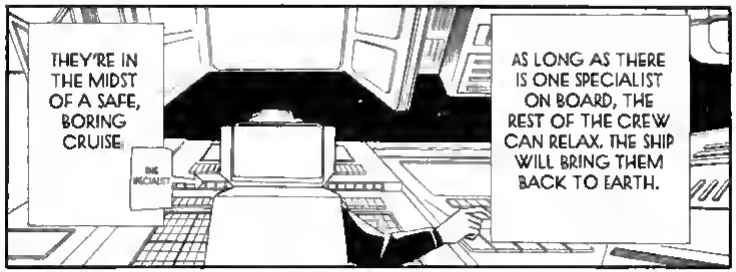
HEH HEH HEH...
It's only the second one!
ANNUAL SPRING SIDE STORY
SHAA
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. WHY IS THE AUTHOR DRAGGING US FROM THE MAIN STORY AGAIN?
HUH?
BY THE TIME WE GET TO EARTH, IT'LL BE JANUARY.
LET'S GET RID OF THIS TREE.
IF WE GET BACK AFTER THE THIRD, WE WON'T GET A PROPER WELCOME.
GEEZ... I HOPE WE'RE HOME BY NEW YEAR'S.
THIS IS...
YEAH?
CAPTAIN!

CHARLES-WORTH!
ZAK
ZAK
GEEZ... WHERE'S HE HIDING?
CHARLES-WORTH!
SUPPER!

HOW CAN HE BE SO FINICKY ABOUT CAT FOOD?
IN CHARGE OF FEEDING THE CAT TODAY
Who's he take after?
SUCH A SELFISH CAT...

I OPENED YOUR FAVORITE. THE RED CAN!
LOOK! I DIDN'T FORGET TO FEED YOU!
ZAK
ZAK

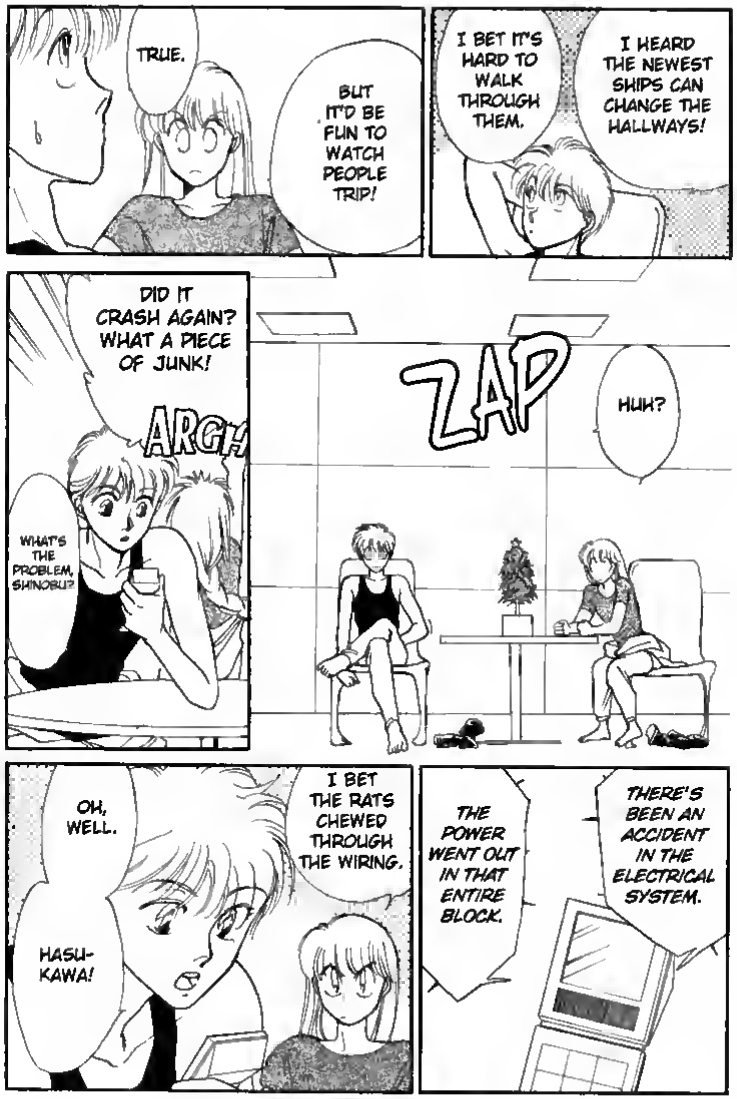
KEE!


THEY'RE IN THE MIDST OF A SAFE, BORING CRUISE.
THE SPECIALIST
AS LONG AS THERE IS ONE SPECIALIST ON BOARD, THE REST OF THE CREW CAN RELAX. THE SHIP WILL BRING THEM BACK TO EARTH.

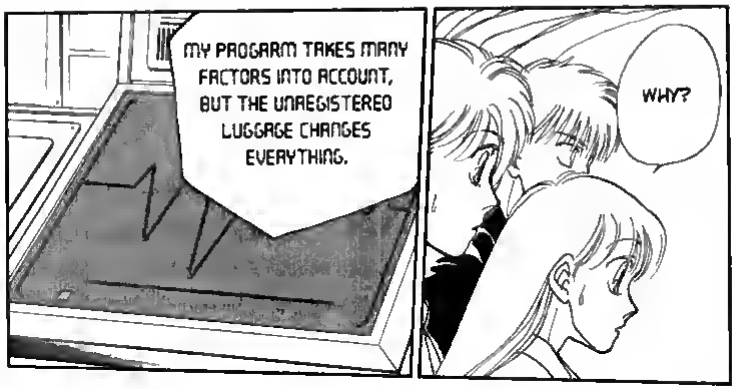
CHING
DID YOU FIND HIM?

A READER NAMED HIM.©
CAPTAIN: MICHELLE IKEDA
SUKA!
SURE, IT'S RE-LAXING ...
...BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO DO.
FIRST MATE· SHURRY KISERAGI

IT'S YOUR JOB TO FIND HIM.
UNTIL THEN, NO DINNER FOR YOU!!
Was there a point to changing our names?
NOT YET!
I KNOW, I KNOW!
Whatever--
SECOND MATE KYLE HASUKAWA
CHING


TRUE.
BUT IT'D BE FUN TO WATCH PEOPLE TRIP!
I BET IT'S HARD TO WALK THROUGH THEM.
I HEARD THE NEWEST SHIPS CAN CHANGE THE HALLWAYS!
DID IT CRASH AGAIN? WHAT A PIECE OF JUNK!
ARGH
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, SHINOBU?
ZAP
HUH?
OH, WELL.
I BET THE RATS CHEWED THROUGH THE WIRING.
HASU-KAWA!
THE POWER WENT OUT IN THAT ENTIRE BLOCK.
THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT IN THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM.

WE'VE GOT RATS EVERY-WHERE.
GEEZ... I HATE THIS.
I WISH THEY'D CLEAN THE SHIP MORE THOR-OUGHLY.
SHIPSHIPSHIP
EEP
BZZZT
SQUEAK!
LIQUID PESTICIDE DO NOT FIRE AT HUMANS
HURRY UP AND COME OUT!
CHARLES-WORTH!
MNN
I'M SICK OF THIS ANTIQUE SHIP!
I'M SO BORED!
LOOK, WE'RE MOVING AT TOP SPEED.
IT'S PITCH-BLACK OUTSIDE.
THIS IS THE ONLY ROOM WITH A HOLOGRAPHIC ENVIRONMENT, AND WE ONLY HAVE A FEW DIFFERENT DISKS.

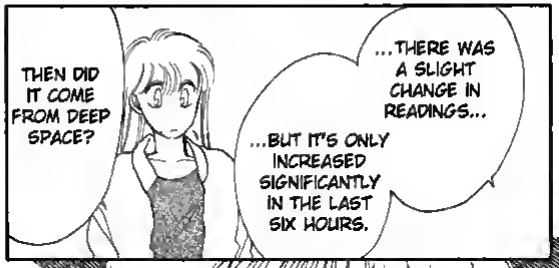

MY PROGRAM TAKES MANY FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT, BUT THE UNREGISTERED LUGGAGE CHANGES EVERYTHING.
WHY?

UNREGIS-TERED LUGGAGE?
WHAT THE...
HASU-KAWA?
ZA'K'K
GEEZ!
SLAVE DRIVERS!

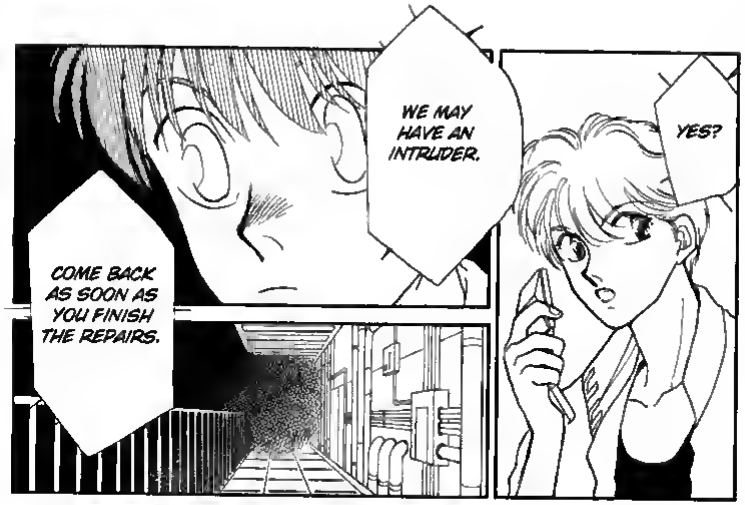
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH ...
LOOK FOR HIM ON YOUR WAY THERE.
CAN YOU GO FIX THE ELECTRIC WIRES?
YES?
WHERE IS HE?
WHAT ABOUT CHARLES-WORTH?
HERE'S THE TROUBLE.
CAN WE STILL MAKE IT HOME ON SCHEDULE?
HASU-KAWA?
IT'S THE ENGINE ROOM, LEVEL SIX.
THE RATS' TEETH ARE GETTING SHARPER, EH?
IT'S A WIRE IN THE ENGINE ROOM.
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE IMPRESSED!
IT'LL BE TOUGH.

THE "UNREGISTERED LUGGAGE" IS DEFINITELY A LIVING ORGANISM.
...AND AN INCREASE IN CARBON DIOXIDE.
THERE'S BEEN A DECREASE IN AVERAGE OXYGEN LEVELS...

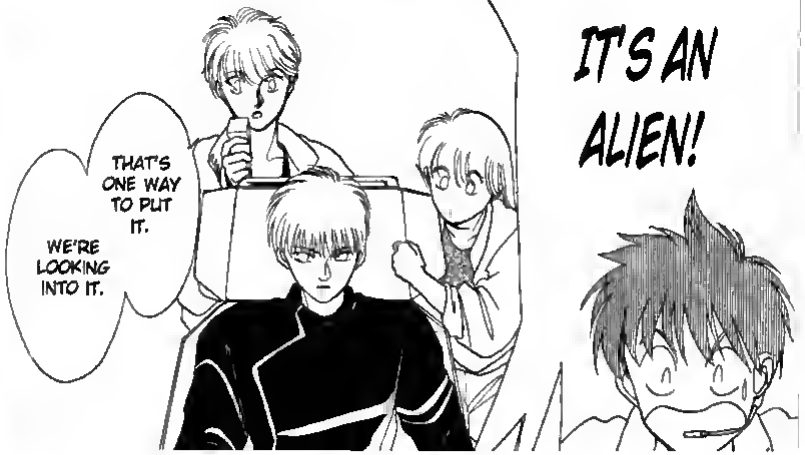
LOOKING AT THE RECORDS ...
WHEN WE LEFT THE PLANET, EVERYTHING WAS NORMAL.
BUT WHEN DID IT COME ON BOARD?


THEN DID IT COME FROM DEEP SPACE?
...THERE WAS A SLIGHT CHANGE IN READINGS...
...BUT IT'S ONLY INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE LAST SIX HOURS.

...THE LUGGAGE IS GROWING.
MAYBE. OR MAYBE...


WE MAY HAVE AN INTRUDER.
YES?
COME BACK AS SOON AS YOU FINISH THE REPAIRS.

PROBABLY FROM THE PLANET WE INVESTI-GATED.
HOW'D THEY GET ON BOARD?
...
AN INTRUDER ...


IT'S AN ALIEN!
THAT'S ONE WAY TO PUT IT.
WE'RE LOOKING INTO IT.

DAH
CHARLES-WORTH?
MEOW
I STILL FELT THAT!
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A COMPUTER?
OUCH!
THE CO2 LEVEL IS RISING.
ALMOST DOUBLING.
THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON IN THE ENGINE ROOM.
OWW...
HASU-KAWA!
THE ALIEN MUST BE IN THE ENGINE ROOM!

YOU KNOW, THERE ARE WOMEN NOT EVEN I WANT TO MEET.
Just FYI
She doesn't exist
HA HA
I HOPE SHE'S HOT.
OF COURSE NOT!
CAPTAIN?
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN AN ALIEN?
IF WE KILL IT, THERE'LL BE ADDITIONAL TROUBLE.
Like where to ship the body
ROGER.
LET US KNOW AS SOON AS YOU FIND IT.
TALKING WILL GET US NOWHERE. LET'S FIND THE ALIEN!
THE CHANCES OF ENCOUN-TERING AN ALIEN ARE SIX THOUSAND TO ONE!
THIS'D BETTER NOT BE A PRANK.
COME ON, SHURRY!
WE HAVE THE WORST LUCK.

WAA
OOO
YAAGH!!

WHERE ARE YOU?
ENGINE ROOM, LEVEL FOUR.
I HEARD SOMETHING AND...
SHHH
COME BACK NOW! GOT IT?
R...
ROGER!
!
HMM.
THE ALIEN MUST'VE BEEN A SINGLE-CELLED ORGANISM WHEN IT BOARDED THE SHIP.
THAT'S INCREDIBLY FAST GROWTH.
BUT IT GREW OR MULTIPLIED UNTIL IT WAS BIG ENOUGH TO GET CAUGHT ON THE COMPUTER'S SURVEILLANCE.
CHARLES-WORTH!
THERE YOU ARE!
MRP
IT'S DANGEROUS DOWN HERE.
COME OUT. HURRY!

WHAT'S GOING ON?
GLOOP
GLOOP
GLOOP
CHARLES-WORTH WAS...
CHARLES-WORTH WAS... EAT... EAT...
WHAT?
BACK OFF!
KSH
TAKE THAT! AND THAT!
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
GLOP
ARGH!

WHOA!
SLUP
HASUKAWA!
DRID
DRID
GCH
GLOOP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
HOLY ...
IT'S THE TYPE OF ALIEN YOU NEVER WANT TO ENCOUNTER.
CHK

ALIGH! YOU MUST BE THAT SLIMY RUNNY THING!
THAT'S MEAN.
Seems to be a recurring theme lately.
THIS IS YOUR INNER LANDSCAPE.
HUH? WHERE AM I?
X-CHAN ... HMM ...
THAT'S A CUTE NAME.
YOU CAN CALL ME X-CHAN.
I'M AN ALIEN LIFE FORM. I'LL NAME MYSELF X.
OH, SORRY.
YOU HAVE SUCH A SHORT TEMPER.
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?
SO WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?
X-CHAN. ♡
Stop cooing over your name!
WHAT DO YOU SAY? WOULD YOU LIKE TO MERGE WITH ME?
I GROW BY MERGING WITH OTHER MATERIALS.

T A K
Tsk
NO EFFECT.
LET'S GET SOME BETTER FIREARMS!
YOU DON'T NEED TO HATE ME SO.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE LIKE THIS...
HELP ME...
MGGGG ... CAN'T BREATHE ...
LET'S GET ALONG. HAND IN HAND, SO TO SPEAK.
HUH?
WHO IS THAT?
SHIVER

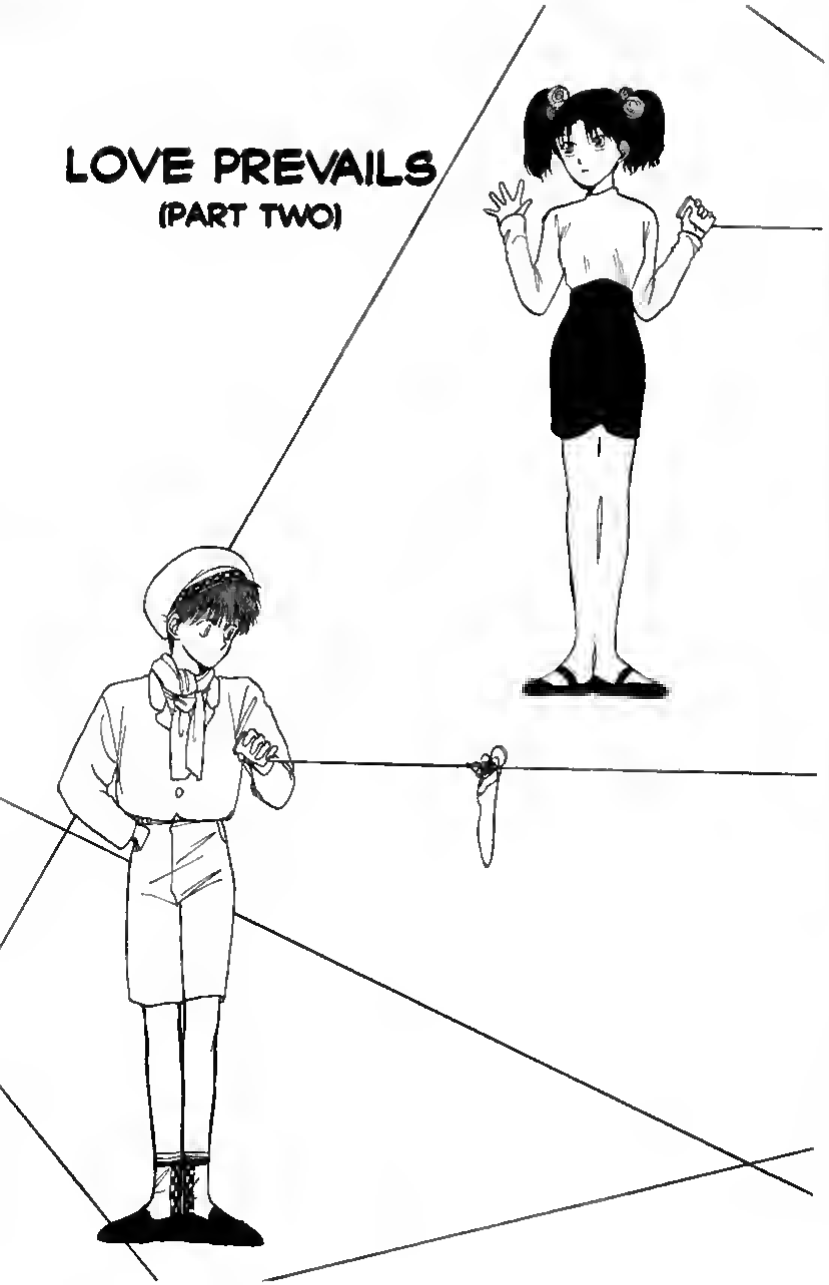
BY BECOMING ONE WITH ME, YOU CAN EXPAND INFINITELY.
...BUT BEING HUMAN GIVES YOU LIMITATIONS.
LOOK AT IT LIKE THIS. YOUR INNER WORLD MIGHT SEEM VAST...
GLOOP
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR HIM!
IF YOU SHOOT IT, WILL SUKA-CHAN BE OKAY?
LET'S GO!
CHAK
WE'D BETTER HURRY. IF IT DAMAGES THE POWER CHAMBER, WE'RE FINISHED!
I CAN MERGE WITH ANYTHING SMALLER THAN ME. EVEN A PLANET.
IN TIME, I WILL MERGE WITH EVERYTHING AND BECOME THE UNIVERSE.
AH!
CRACK CRACK

SORRY.
IT, UM, FELT LIKE MY SHIN WAS SCRATCHED...
YOUR SHIN? YOU DON'T HAVE SHINS!
OW!
WHAT IS IT?
SOMETHING SCRATCHED MY SHIN.
I KNOW!
WE'D BETTER STOP THAT ALIEN SOON. OTHERWISE, WE CAN FORGET ABOUT GETTING HOME ON TIME.
YES.
BUT HE'S NOT DEAD.
THEN ...
...DID YOU MERGE WITH CHARLES-WORTH, TOO?
WE BECAME ONE LIFE. THE CAT WAS IN ACCORD WITH MY SUGGESTION.
WHEN I FIRST BOARDED THE SHIP, I WAS VERY SMALL. I GREW BY MERGING WITH DUST, LINT, COCKROACHES AND RATS.
EWW!
CREAK CREAK
Um.

...BUT I CAN'T SEPARATE SOMETHING WITH WHICH I'VE ALREADY MERGED.
I CAN'T MERGE WITH YOU IF YOU REFUSE ME...
HE'S ONE OF US! GIVE HIM BACK!
FINE. LET'S DO THIS.
HE MERGED WITH ME OF HIS OWN FREE WILL...
AND I DOUBT YOU PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO DO IT...
...BUT THE KIND OF PEACE YOU WANT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ATTAIN.
I DON'T MEAN TO OFFEND...
HASU-KAWA!
IT SHRANK ...
WHAT THE...
LOOK!

WHY NOT?
NO WAY!
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S AMAZING? THE UNIVERSE WILL BECOME ONE.
A PEACEFUL, SAPIENT CREATION THAT WILL LAST FOREVER.
IT'S JUST ...
WELL, YEAH ...
DON'T YOU WANT UNIVERSAL PEACE?
THERE'S A REASON WE WERE BORN AS INDIVIDUALS! YOU CAN'T DESTROY THAT!
WHAT'S THE POINT OF THAT KIND OF HAPPINESS?
WHAT TO DO ...
CHARLES-WORTH, TOO!
GET ME OUT OF HERE!

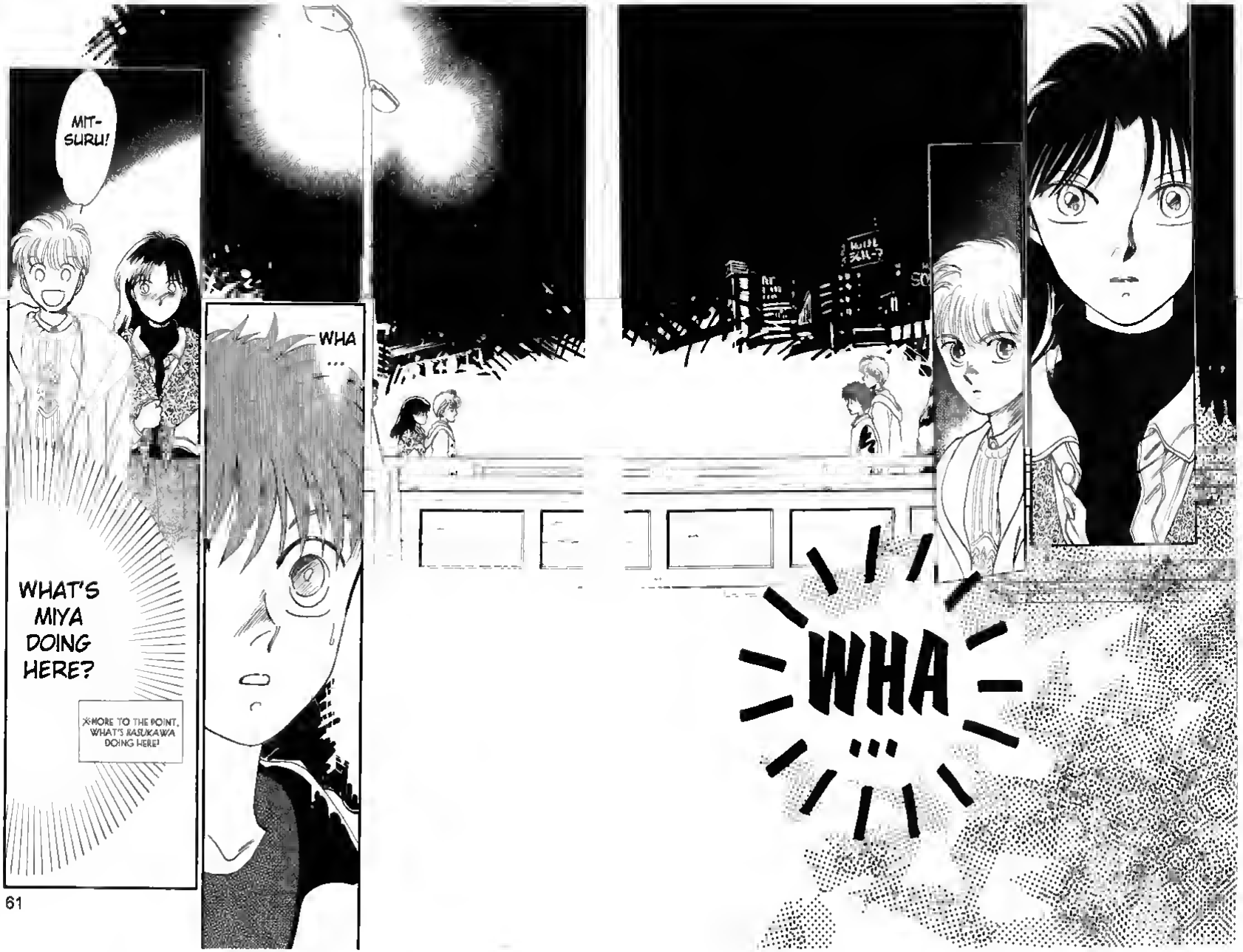
LOVE PREVAILS
(PART TWO)



CHARLES-WORTH?
HEY.
HE'S OVER THERE.
SKRT SKRT
...HE'D HAVE LIVED A BLISSFUL LIFE LIKE ANY OTHER CAT.
IF CHARLES-WORTH HADN'T BEEN WORRIED ABOUT WORLD PEACE...
I SEE ...
IT'S NOT CLEAR IF THE INVASION MADE A DIFFERENCE, BUT...
WELL ...
derstanding Through Open Dialogue with liens!
Make a Difference!
THE THREAT TO THE UNIVERSE HAD PASSED.
OR SO WE THINK... BUT WHO KNOWS?
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
MEOW
LET ME KNOW IF YOU EVER NEED ME.

IT GETS CHILLY AFTER SUNSET.
JR UGUISUDANI STATION
NORTH ENTRANCE
NO... NOTHING.
WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M JUST SAYING I CAN HOLD MY OWN STUFF!
GEEZ!
STOP ACTING LIKE WE'RE STRANGERS!
NO.
I CAN HOLD IT MYSELF.
WANT ME TO HOLD THAT?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
LOFT
They're so cute!! Hee hee!!

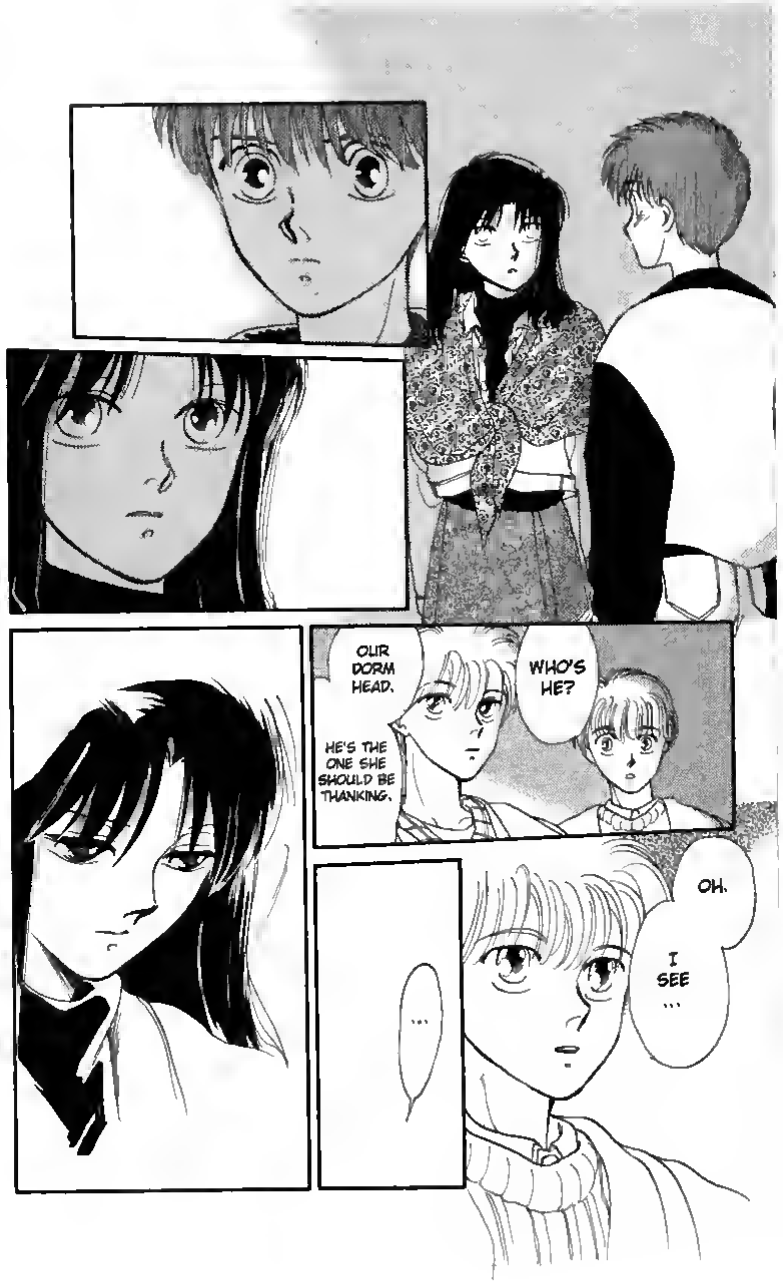
MIYA?
WILL YOU RUN TO THE STORE FOR ME?
TENMA, GO WITH HER.
I DON'T TRUST MIYA TO GO ALONE.
SURE.
MIYA!
MIYA, YOU BE GOOD, JUST LIKE TENMA.
GOT THAT, MIYA?
I'M SO GLAD YOU LIVE ACROSS THE STREET FROM US.
I CAN TRUST MIYA TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.


MIT-SURU!
WHA...
WHAT'S MIYA DOING HERE?
※MORE TO THE POINT, WHAT'S RASUKAWA DOING HERE?
WHA...

HEY, GUYS.
SO MIYA'S MOM IS BACK HOME?
YEAH, SHE'S BEEN BACK SINCE SEPTEMBER.
SHE'LL BE ABLE TO STAY HOME FOR A WHILE.
OH!
MIYA, DID YOU EVER THANK MITSURU FOR HELPING YOU?
HUH?
RUSTLE
SORRY ABOUT THE TROUBLE I CAUSED.
RUSTLE
ER... THAT WAS...
YOU NEED TO PROPERLY THANK HIM!
COME ON! NOW!

ARRRGH!
Ahh!
PANIC STRICKEN!
Ahh!
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
THIS IS TOO SUDDEN!
OH, NO ...
B-DUMP
B-DUMP
B-DUMP
B-DUMP
B-DUMP
B-DUMP
AH...
I KNOW THAT FACE...
I WANTED TO SEE HER ONE MORE TIME.
I WANTED TO SEE HER.
IT'S THE FACE SHE MAKES RIGHT BEFORE SHE CRIES.

I'M SORRY ...
SEE YOU LATER.
YEAH.
HOTEL PINE HILL


OUR DORM HEAD.
WHO'S HE?
HE'S THE ONE SHE SHOULD BE THANKING.
...
OH.
I SEE ...

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
MIT-SURU... I...
KNOCK IT OFF!
Tissue... tissue...
WHAT SHOULD YOU DO? I'M NOT SURE.
I've never been in your situation.
I'M SO MAD AT MYSELF...
PAT PAT
IT HURTS.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT I...
I FEEL ...
...LIKE MY HEAD IS FULL OF BLOOD.

HE TALKS LIKE AN OLD MAN.
HAVE A GOOD NEW YEAR'S!
I'LL PAY FOR YOUR TRAIN.
160 yen
MIT-SURU ...
WHAT?
JR UGUISUDANI STATION
NORTH ENTRANCE
OOZE
DRIP

TELL HASUKAWA I HOPE HE FEELS BETTER.
I SEE. NO, I UNDER-STAND.

IT'S THE NEW YEAR, AND HE'S SICK ALREADY
REALLY?
WHAT'S WRONG?

SHOULD WE GO TO THE TEMPLE BY OURSELVES, THEN?
NOT MANY GUYS THESE DAYS GET A FEVER FROM LOVESICK-NESS.
The author's running out of plot devices.
ON A DAY TRIP, USING A VISIT TO THE TEMPLE AS AN EXCUSE.
SNUCK AWAY FROM HOME AND PLANS TO STAY HERE UNTIL SCHOOL STARTS
Here you go!

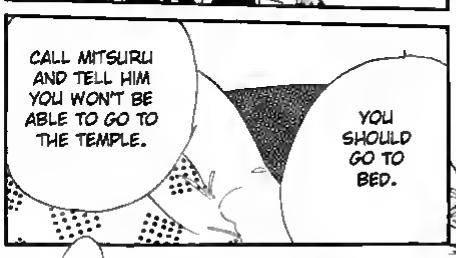
AND I KNOW IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT...
I SWORE I WOULDN'T GET INVOLVED IN THIS TYPE OF STUFF.

Sigh...
Isn't that Mitsuru from Koryuji Temple?
What are those boys doing?

WHAT'S WRONG?

I KNEW IT. YOU MAY HAVE CAUGHT SOME-THING.

Happy New Year!
YAKKUN, YOUR FACE IS RED.
DO YOU HAVE A FEVER?
You didn't think the nice wine did you?

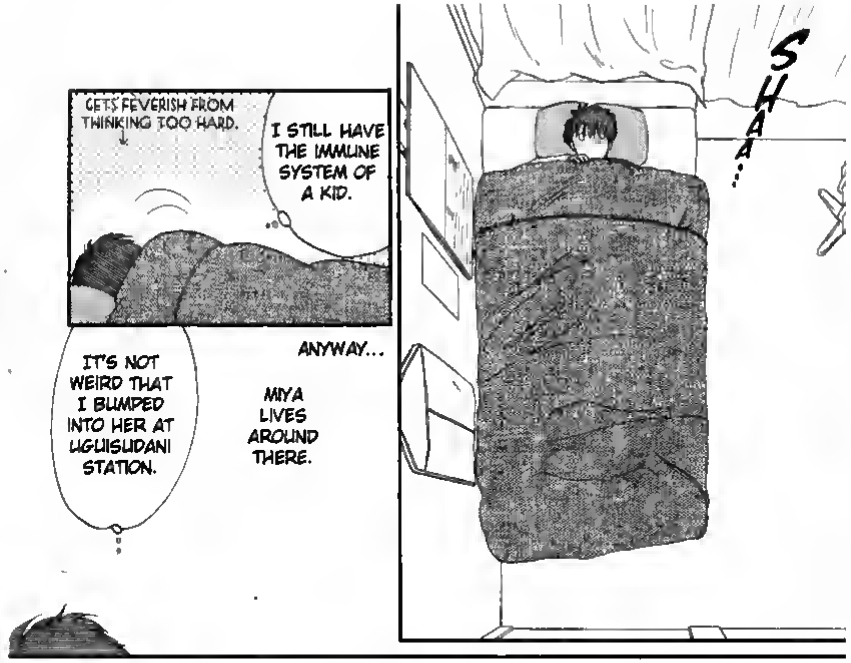

CALL MITSURU AND TELL HIM YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO THE TEMPLE.
YOU SHOULD GO TO BED.

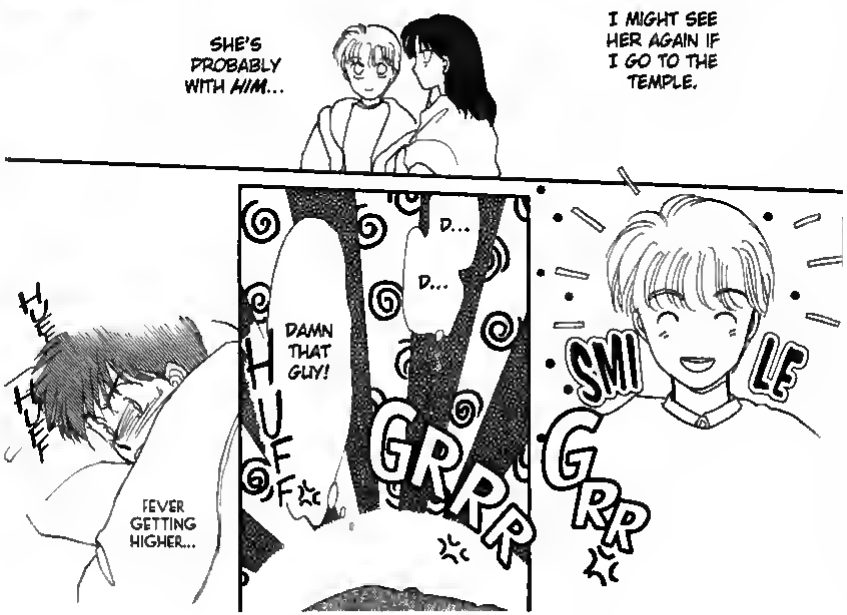
...
Now to our correspondent Ohta...
AAH AAH
HUP
TAK TAK
Come on. Get to bed.

SHAE...
I HEARD THE RUMORS ...
—BUT HE REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE A GIRL.
THIS TIME ...
...HE HASN'T LOST YET.
HIRO-KUN!
HIRO-KUN!
NO!
THE BACK!
THE BACK?
WHAT DID HE PICK UP AT UGUISUDANI?
THIS WAS IN HIS JEAN POCKET!
LOOK!
!
See?
DASH

ARE YOU SAYING YOU CAN?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
NOT EVEN YOU ...
...CAN HELP HIM IN THIS SITUATION.
FRANK
I DON'T PLAN TO MAKE MYSELF USEFUL FOR HIS SAKE.
WHERE'S THAT COMING FROM?
HE'S SUCH AN IDIOT.
YEAH.
SUKA-CHAN REALLY DOESN'T LEARN.
YEAH?
WHAT?
STILL ...
...THERE'S ONE WAY THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM HIS LAST HOPELESS CRUSH.
YOU'RE BRUTALLY HONEST.
BUT WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT MIYA?
COME ON! THE CRUSH ON HIS SISTER WAS ONE THING!
I like that about you.

WHY DO PEOPLE'S HEARTS TAKE SUCH TWISTS AND TURNS WHEN THEY'RE IN LOVE?
IS LOVE ...
...REALLY ALL THAT POWERFUL?
HIRO?
KAZUYA!
NOK NOK
LUNCH IS ALMOST READY! ARE YOU GOING TO EAT?
I'LL EAT.
...
I HAVE A QUESTION.


GET'S FEVERISH FROM THINKING TOO HARD.
I STILL HAVE THE IMMUNE SYSTEM OF A KID.
ANYWAY...
IT'S NOT WEIRD THAT I BUMPED INTO HER AT UGUISUDANI STATION.
MIYA LIVES AROUND THERE.
SHAA...


SHE'S PROBABLY WITH HIM...
I MIGHT SEE HER AGAIN IF I GO TO THE TEMPLE.
FEVER GETTING HIGHER...
D... D...
DAMN THAT GUY!
HUFF
GRRR
SMILE
GRR

WOULD YOU GIVE UP?
I DON'T KNOW YOUR EXACT SITUATION, BUT MY ANSWER WOULD BE THE SAME.
EVEN IF THE OTHER GUY WAS THE BETTER MAN, I WOULDN'T BACK DOWN.
Not that many guys are better than me.
I'D HAVE NO MERCY, EVEN IF IT WERE MY OWN BROTHER.
YOU THINK TOO MUCH.
DIDN'T YOU LEARN THAT AT THE SPORTS FESTIVAL?
...!
THIS AFFECTS OTHER PEOPLE!
THIS IS DIFFERENT!
...
YOU'RE WRONG.
Why are you worried about the other guy, you idiot?
I MIGHT END UP HURTING HER... OR THE OTHER GUY.

The last time he asked me for advice, he was in middle school asking which high school he should attend!
AHHooo
How long I've waited for this day to dawn once more!
ARE YOU TRYING TO COVER THE FACT THAT THIS IS ABOUT YOU?
You really can't lie
I'M JUST SAYING, HYPOTHETICALLY!
OKAY, LOOK.
I'M SAYING...
WHAT WOULD I DO? YOU MEAN...
...WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF SHE'D BEEN IN LOVE WITH SOMEBODY ELSE?
HYPOTHETICALLY, WHEN YOU FIRST MET SUMIRE...
WHAT THEN?
AND THEY'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME!
SUPPOSE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH SUMIRE, BUT SUMIRE IS IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE!

↑ IF THAT'D BEEN THE CASE, NOTHING WOULD'VE HAPPENED BETWEEN SUMIRE AND KAZUHIRO. SEE VOLUME 5 FOR DETAILS!

BUT...
IF YOU STRIKE OUT, YOU'VE LOST THIS TIME, LIKE IT OR NOT.
THEY SAY THE BAD GUY ALWAYS LOSES.
...IF YOU DON'T LOSE, MAYBE YOU WEREN'T THE BAD GUY AFTER ALL.
IN THE END, IT'S UP TO THE GIRL.
He hasn't caught on.
I'VE SEEN IT AROUND LATELY.
PRETTY MACHO HANDWRITING FOR A GIRL.
MIYA 3872-XXXX
NOT EXACTLY A SUBTLE HINT.
SHF
HOW DO YOU KNOW HER NAME?
WHY NOT ASK MIYA?

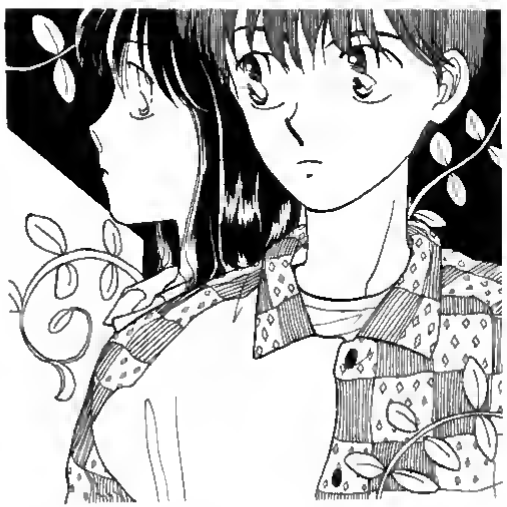
THIS IS COMING TO YOU FROM A PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR.
I get paid to do this.
WELL ...
I ...
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE THE BAD GUY, RIGHT?
IF YOU'RE THIS WORRIED, YOU MUST'VE FALLEN PRETTY HARD FOR THIS GIRL.
MAYBE HE'S RIGHT.
AND NOW YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH SOMEBODY ELSE'S GIRLFRIEND.
I'VE JUST BEEN AFRAID OF GETTING HURT.
SHOCK
BLIND SPOT, RIGHT? PEOPLE ALWAYS IGNORE THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO
IF SHE TURNS YOU DOWN, YOU'LL BE HURT MOST OF ALL.
LET ME TELL YOU SOME-THING.
I KNEW THE ANSWER WAS THERE ALL ALONG.

THE GREEN LIGHT IS URGING ME ON.
FIRST, I NEED TO TELL MIYA HOW I FEEL!
EVERYTHING ELSE STARTS FROM THERE!
GUTS
ALL RIGHT!
How long will it take him to make one phone call?
OR ELSE NOTHING WILL START AT ALL...
LET'S DO IT!
RING
B-DMP
CHK
HELLO. IGARASHI HOUSEHOLD.
MAY I SPEAK TO MIYA, PLEASE?
AH... UM...
THIS IS MIYA.
BLUSH
...
?
M... MIYA?
UM... I...
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU...
IT'S HASUKAWA.

HEY! MIYA!
CHK
!
I'M SORRY!
...
Well. I guess that was another possible outcome.
BZZT BZZT BZZT
...
HYOOOOOO
CAN THE CHAPTER END ON SUCH A HOPELESS NOTE?
IS KAZUYA'S PAST LIFE TO BLAME, OR DID HIS TRACK COACH SOMEHOW CURSE HIM?
WILL SPRING EVER BLOOM FOR KAZUYA HASUKAWA?
THE SOUND OF WIND BLOWING THROUGH MY RAVAGED HEART

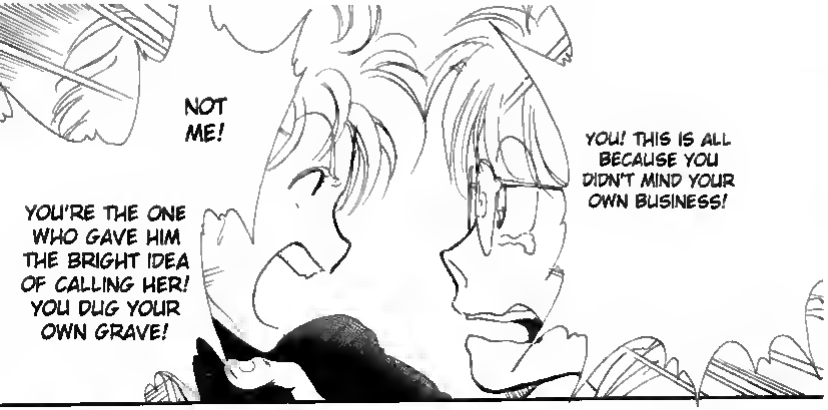
LOVE PREVAILS
(PART THREE)

JANUARY 1ST
RIIING
RIIING
RIIING
CHAK
MIYA!
CLICK
EEE!!!
WRONG NUMBER!
OH, I SEE.
UM.. IT WAS NOTHING!
WHO CALLED? WAS IT A FRIEND?
MIYA?



Poor thing.
DON'T FEEL TOO BAD! THEY SAY FIRST LOVE IS NEVER MEANT TO BE!
HEY! THAT'S ENOUGH!
OH! DID YAKKUN GET TURNED DOWN?
SHUK
WHAT?
DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?
KAZUYA!
SLAM
IN THIS SITUATION, PEOPLE TYPICALLY EITHER RUN OR HIDE IN BED.
WHOOP WHOOP WOOP

BEEP BEEP BEEP
EEE
TAK
DO YOU WANT SOME OF THE NEW YEAR'S TREATS TENMA'S MOTHER MADE? THEY'RE REALLY GOOD.
SURE
WHAT'S WRONG?
POKE
BEEP BEEP BEEE...
BEEE...


NOT ME!
YOU! THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GAVE HIM THE BRIGHT IDEA OF CALLING HER! YOU DUG YOUR OWN GRAVE!

BUT WHAT IS MIYA THINKING?
HANGING UP ON HIM LIKE THAT...

SOB SOB
POOR GUY ...
Face reality, will ya?
DON'T TRY TO PLACE ALL THE BLAME ON ME!

HEY! SHUT UP!
THIS IS NO TIME TO TURN INTO A BITTER OLD PRUDE!
YOU'RE THE TYPE OF GUY WHO CAN WALK THREE STEPS AND PICK UP AN ARMFUL OF WOMEN. HOW COULD A GIGOLO LIKE YOU UNDERSTAND THE INNOCENCE OF A REAL MAN?
HIC
SNIFF

HMMM...
I THOUGHT SHE DID
Maybe she just doesn't like him.
YOU'RE SURE SHE HAS A THING FOR HASUKAWA?

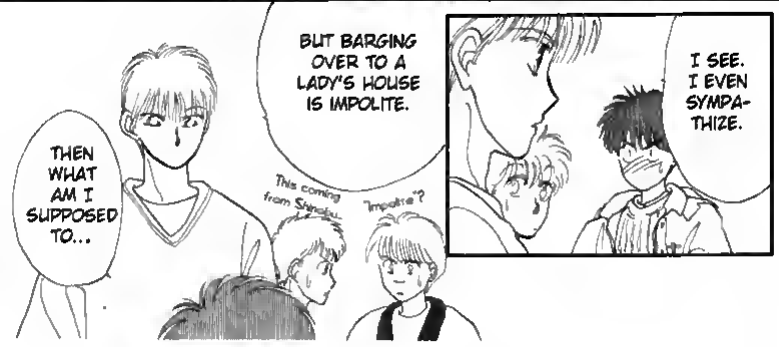
JANUARY 4TH
SO...
...HE PICKED UP A COLD THE OTHER NIGHT.
HE'S BEEN MOANING AND GROANING SINCE NEW YEAR'S.
☆IN DUTY SO HE CAME TO SCHOOL
I ...
I SEE ...
HE'S SAYING HE'LL GO BACK TO THE DORM BEFORE SCHOOL OPENS... BUT WE'LL SEE.
HE'S BEEN BEDRIDDEN EVER SINCE.
...I'D FINALLY REGAINED HIS TRUST AS A BROTHER.
AND HERE I THOUGHT ...
SIGH

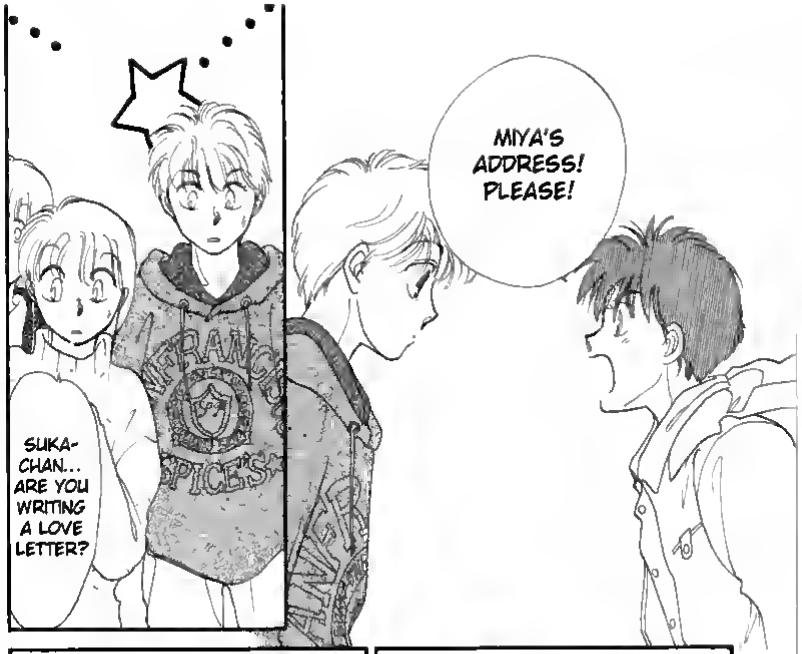
STOMP
STOMP
YEAH, YOU NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO OPENED THE FLOODGATES.
I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TALK TO MIYA MYSELF...
...BUT IT WAS HARSH OF HER TO JUST HANG UP ON HIM.
HUH?
SUKA-CHAN'S HERE!
H-HEY! WHAT THE—
SEM-PAI!
SL
AM

JANUARY 6TH
...WE SHOULD PROBABLY DO SOMETHING.
AT ANY RATE ...
HOW'RE YOU DOING?
HEY! LONG TIME NO SEE!
WE KNEW THIS'D HAPPEN SOON OR LATER..
211
MAN, THAT'S COLD.
APPARENTLY, SHE TURNED HIM DOWN ON NEW YEAR'S.
HUH? BUT DOESN'T SHE ALREADY HAVE A GUY?
HEY, DID YOU HEAR? HASUKAWA PUT THE MOVES ON THAT GANGSTER CHICK.
PSST

SO WHY ...
I HAVEN'T EVEN ASKED HER!
I HAVEN'T BEEN DUMPED YET!
...DID SHE SAY "SORRY"?

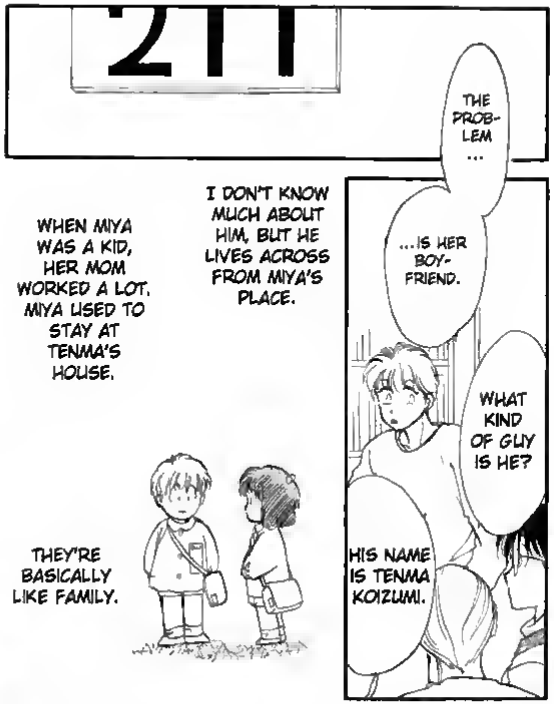
IT'S NOT OVER UNTIL I TELL HER HOW I FEEL AND GIVE HER THE CHANCE TO TURN ME DOWN FAIR AND SQUARE!
MAYBE I WILL LOSE IN THE END, BUT I CAN'T GIVE UP THIS EARLY IN THE GAME!

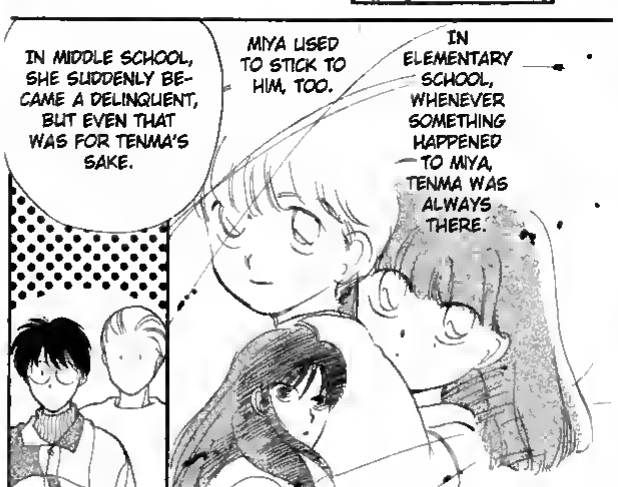

THEN WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO...
BUT BARGING OVER TO A LADY'S HOUSE IS IMPOLITE.
This coming from Shinobu...
"Impolite"?
I SEE. I EVEN SYMPATHIZE.


MIYA'S ADDRESS! PLEASE!
SUKA-CHAN... ARE YOU WRITING A LOVE LETTER?

WAP

BUT I THOUGHT YOU GOT DUMPED!
NO ONE ANSWERS THE PHONE, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I CALL. WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?
How many times has he called?
HEY, WAIT!
WERE YOU PLANNING TO GO DIRECTLY TO HER HOUSE?
I DIDN'T EVEN THINK OF THAT!
STOMP

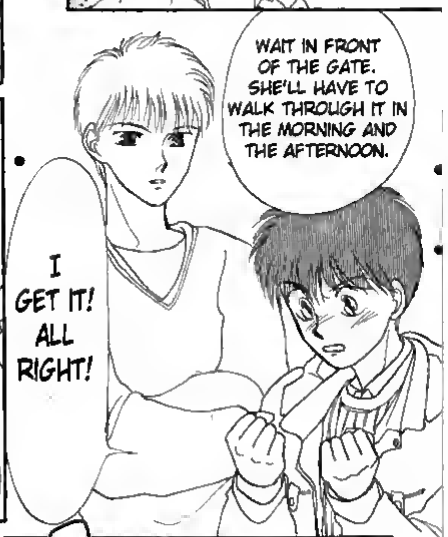

211
THE PROB-LEM ...
...IS HER BOY-FRIEND.
WHAT KIND OF GUY IS HE?
HIS NAME IS TENMA KOIZUMI.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM, BUT HE LIVES ACROSS FROM MIYA'S PLACE.
WHEN MIYA WAS A KID, HER MOM WORKED A LOT. MIYA USED TO STAY AT TENMA'S HOUSE.
THEY'RE BASICALLY LIKE FAMILY.


IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, SHE SUDDENLY BE-CAME A DELINQUENT, BUT EVEN THAT WAS FOR TENMA'S SAKE.
MIYA USED TO STICK TO HIM, TOO.
IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WHENEVER SOMETHING HAPPENED TO MIYA, TENMA WAS ALWAYS THERE.

MUTTER
HASU-KAWA..
WE'RE IN AWE.

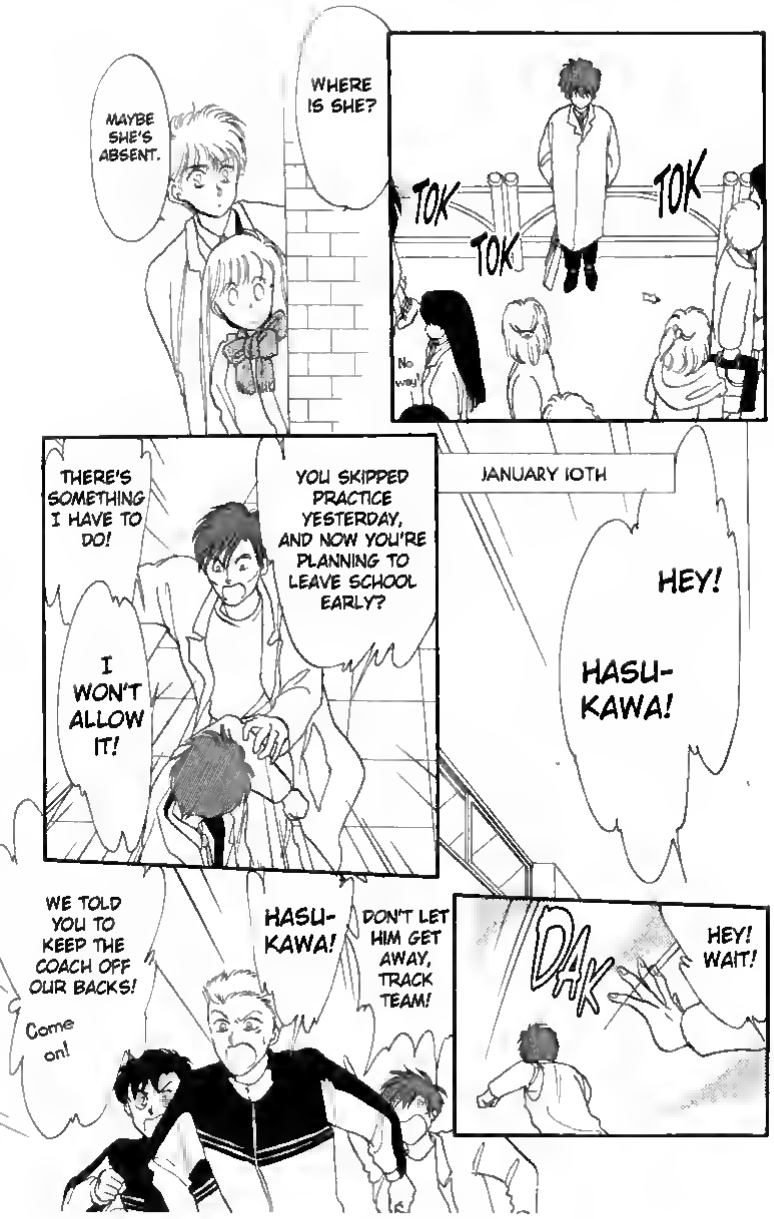
AHA!
GO TO HER SCHOOL.

SEM-PAI!
GOOD LUCK!
WE'RE ROOTING FOR YOU!


WAIT IN FRONT OF THE GATE. SHE'LL HAVE TO WALK THROUGH IT IN THE MORNING AND THE AFTERNOON.
I GET IT! ALL RIGHT!

WORD SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE DORM. MANY ADMIRED HASUKAWA'S COURAGE...

FWASH
LIVE YOUR YOUTH TO THE FULLEST, EVEN IF DESPAIR AWAITS!
KEEP PUSHING TOWARD VICTORY!


MAYBE SHE'S ABSENT.
WHERE IS SHE?
TOK
TOK
TOK
No way!
JANUARY 10TH
THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO!
YOU SKIPPED PRACTICE YESTERDAY, AND NOW YOU'RE PLANNING TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY?
I WON'T ALLOW IT!
HEY!
HASU-KAWA!
WE TOLD YOU TO KEEP THE COACH OFF OUR BACKS!
Come on!
HASU-KAWA!
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY, TRACK TEAM!
DAK
HEY! WAIT!

Who cares if it blows up in his face?
LET HIM GO FOR IT.
BUT AT THIS POINT, HE'D GLADLY WALK INTO A MINEFIELD.
PRO-BABLY NOT.
DOES HASUKAWA HAVE A CHANCE?
GEEZ ...
IT'S MY OLD MAN'S FAULT I GOT THIS WAY!
YOU'RE SUCH A DAD.
JANUARY 9TH
DING
DONG
I'M FULLY RECO-VERED.
IT'S GO TIME!
GOOD LUCK!

GOING TO AN ALL-GIRL SCHOOL EVERY DAY...
He's got guts.
IS HE STILL AT IT?
JANUARY 11TH
BUT THE GIRL'S DATING SOMEONE, RIGHT?
NO LUCK WITH WOMEN
I KNEW HE WAS STUBBORN, BUT...
WE NEED TO THINK OF ANOTHER PLAN.
SUKA-CHAN CAN'T KEEP SKIPPING SIXTH PERIOD FOREVER.
NO ONE'S PICKING UP.
AND HER MOM'S SUPPOSED TO BE HOME.
DID SHE ANSWER THE PHONE?
NOPE.

SQUISH
WE'RE THE NEWLY-FORMED HASUKAWA SUPPORT COMMITTEE!
WHAT THE— WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
Huh?
GO! NOW'S YOUR ...
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
WUP WUP
OUR JOB IS TO DESTROY ANYONE WHO GETS IN THE WAY OF HASUKAWA'S LOVE AFFAIR!
THAT'S ODD.
THIS IS THE ONLY EXIT.
It's the standard fortress-wall structure like at any one-shitty girls school.
SHE'S NOT HERE TODAY, EITHER.
And then...

SHE'S ABSENT.
I WONDER IF IT'S MIYA FROM OUR CLASS.
That's her name, right?
HEY, ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MIYA?
HOP
THAT WAS CLOSE.
This is why I hate all-girl schools.
SHE'S IN THE HOSPITAL. SHE BROKE HER ARM.
I DUNNO.
WHICH HOSPITAL?
I HEARD SHE HAD A SKIING ACCIDENT OVER WINTER BREAK.
BROKE HER ARM? HOW?
What? I thought she went straight...
Maybe they're gangsters, too.
Geez. What's with those people?

GLITTER
GLITTER
Hey, what're you doing?
SEMPAI! TROUBLE!
Ooo! Look! He's still here!
I'M NOT SKIPPING.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SKIP CLASSES, TOO, YOU KNOW.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I ...
I'M WAITING FOR A FRIEND.
YOU'VE BEEN HERE THE PAST TWO DAYS, YOUNG MAN.
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU NEED?
WHAT SCHOOL ARE YOU FROM?
WHAT'S HER NAME?
DASH
MIYAAA...

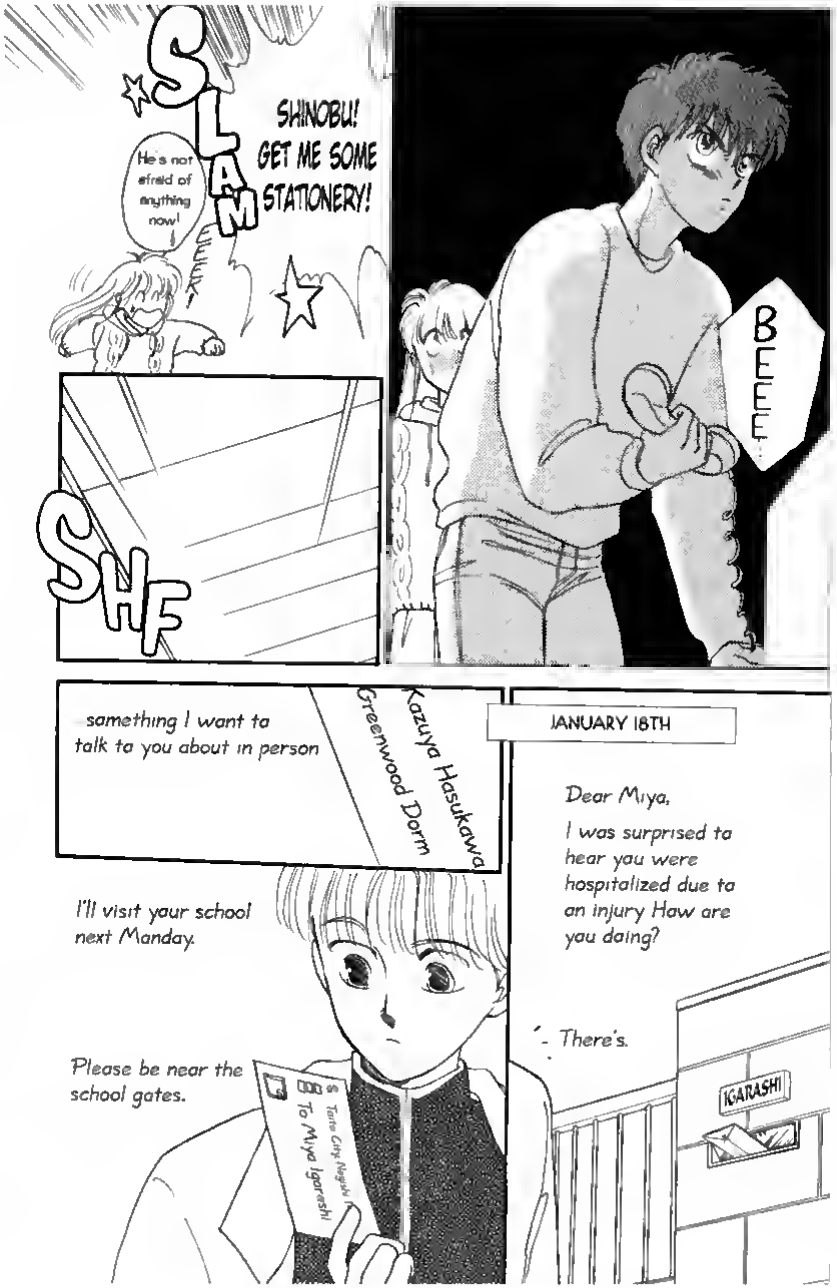
I'M SO GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.
I FORGOT ABOUT HIS INCREDIBLE BAD LUCK.
It's unbelievable how he keeps missing her.
Maybe it's just not meant to be
LET'S HAVE SOME TEA AND RELAX.
IT'S PROBABLY ...
SLAM
I BET HE'S MAD.
BUT...
...IF I TALK TO HIM NOW...
...PUNISHMENT.

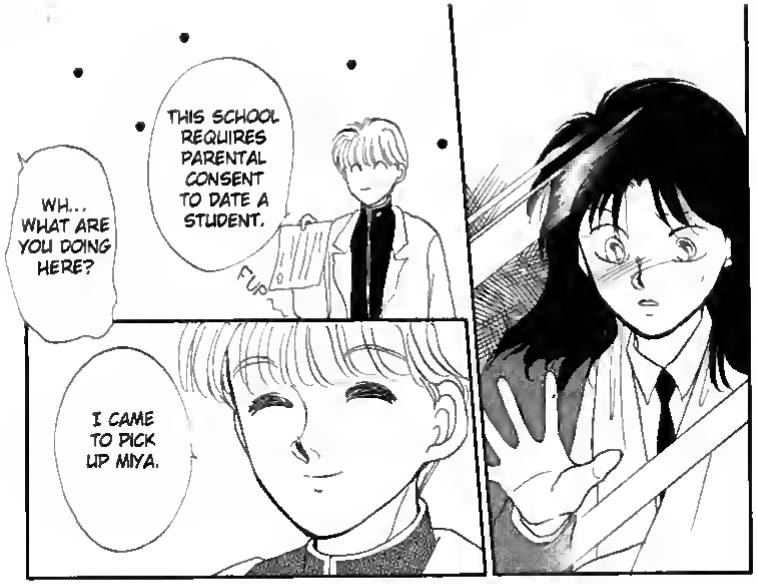
Hey, his reputation as a matchmaker is on the line
He promised one of Miya's classmates a date if she found out He's really pulling out the stops.
IT'S CLOSED TOMORROW, THOUGH...
I KNOW WHICH HOSPITAL SHE'S IN!
CHAK
211
JANUARY 14TH
YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO VISIT HER IN THE HOSPITAL. YOU'RE A FRIEND CHECKING UP ON HER!
AND SHE'S GOT TO BE THERE.
JANUARY 16TH
SHE LEFT THIS MORNING.
MIYA IGARASHI?
?
WHOO——————....

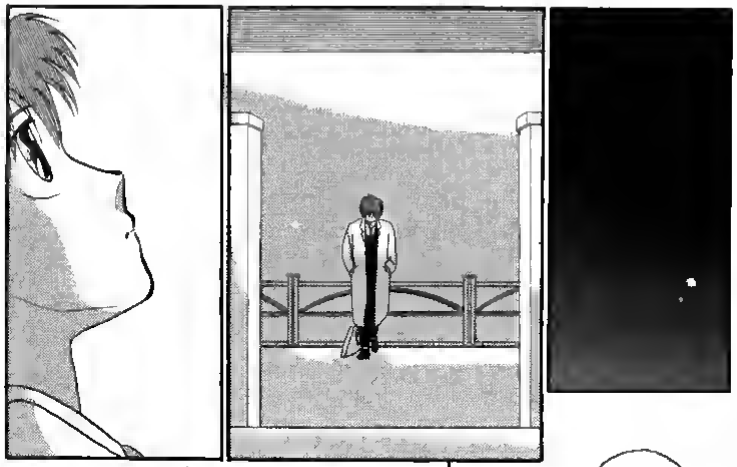
HELLO?
OH, THE PHONE.
TAK
SLAM
TAKA
WHAT'S WRONG, MIYA?
WAS IT A PRANK CALL?
BEEP

I KNOW I DEPEND ON YOU AND YOUR MOTHER...
...BUT I HAVE TO BE WITH MIYA AT TIMES LIKE THIS!
OF COURSE.
SO YOU TOOK TIME OFF WORK TODAY?
MIYA GREW UP SO WELL BECAUSE OF YOU.
TAK
WELL, YOU KNOW, I'M AN ONLY CHILD.
OHHOHOHO
AHHAHAHA
SOMETIMES I WISH YOU COULD BE MY SON! JUST TEASING ...
I'M SO LUCKY YOU'RE AROUND, THOUGH.
THANKS TO YOU, I CAN GO BACK TO WORK AND KNOW MIYA IS ALL RIGHT.
RING
RIGHT, MIYA?
I'M SO GLAD I CAN COUNT ON YOU.
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF MIYA.
DON'T WORRY, MA'AM.

JANUARY 21ST
Please be there
ZAM
KSH
WHY IS HE HERE?
SHE'S NOT SHOWING.
Maybe she really is avoiding him.
WHY ...
?


SLAM
SHINOBU! GET ME SOME STATIONERY!
He's not afraid of anything now!
SHF
BEEE
something I want to talk to you about in person
Kazuya Hasukawa
Greenwood Dorm
I'll visit your school next Monday.
Please be near the school gates.
To Miya Igarashi
JANUARY 18TH
Dear Miya,
I was surprised to hear you were hospitalized due to an injury How are you doing?
There's.
IGARASHI


WH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THIS SCHOOL REQUIRES PARENTAL CONSENT TO DATE A STUDENT.
FUP
I CAME TO PICK UP MIYA.

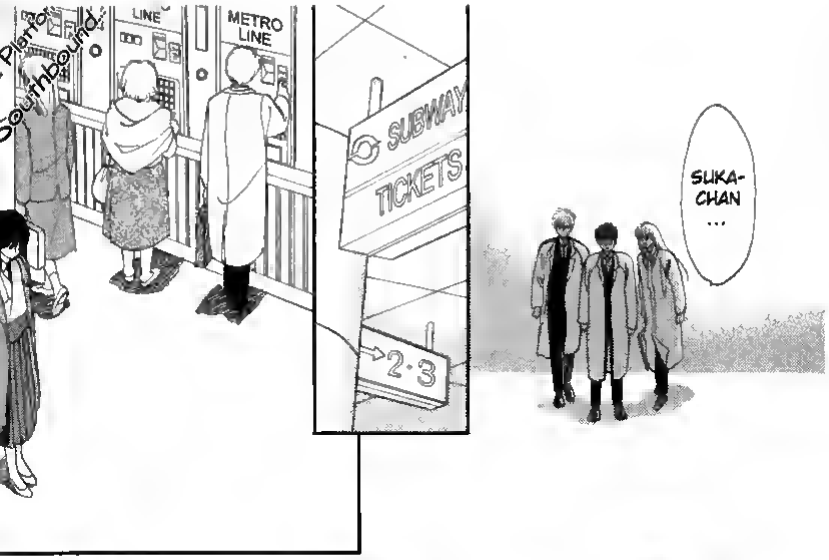


MIYA HASN'T READ IT?
RUSTLE
SO ...
IT'S HARD FOR HER TO GET AROUND WITH ONE ARM, SO I'VE BEEN PICKING HER UP EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL.
...IT'S POINTLESS TO SEND HER SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
THAT'S ...
FWP

UH ...
WELL.
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE.
THE TEACHERS WILL YELL AT YOU FOR HANGING AROUND THE SCHOOL.
WHAT'S TENMA DOING HERE?
A CONFRON-TATION!
KUKUKU

MIYA IS MINE.
LET'S GO HOME.
Give me your bag
MIYA!

IT'S LUCKY I FOUND IT.
IMAGINE IF HER MOM HAD FOUND IT.
I CAN'T LET HER READ IT
DIDN'T YOU THINK ABOUT THE TROUBLE YOU'D CAUSE MIYA?
...!
I CAN'T HEAR THEM, BUT IT LOOKS PRETTY UGLY...
SHE'D GET QUESTIONED AND ACCUSED OF THINGS.
MIYA'S MOM ADORES ME, AND IT'S NOT LIKE HER TIES TO MY FAMILY ARE JUST GOING TO DISSOLVE.
BUT... I LOVE MIYA.
THINGS LIKE THIS WOULD ONLY COMPROMISE MIYA.


LINE
METRO LINE
SUBWAY
TICKETS
2·3
SUKA-CHAN ...

IT'LL BE OKAY IF I DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM MORE THAN THIS.
AM I RUNNING AWAY?
FROM HIM?
NO. THEN FROM WHAT?
Ow...

MIYA! WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?
TOK
DAH
...!

CHK
CHK
AND ...?
BUT ...
...I LOVE HIM.
I SEE.
JANUARY 22ND

IT'LL BE FINE IF I NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.
FORGET HIM. FORGET HIM.
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT WITH MOM OR TENMA.
THINGS ARE FINE THE WAY THEY ARE.
I'M ALWAYS RUNNING AWAY...
I'M A COWARD AND A CRYBABY.
...EVEN THOUGH I KNOW IT DOESN'T SOLVE ANYTHING!
I'LL ALWAYS PROTECT YOU...
I UNDERSTAND YOU BEST.
...SO YOU CAN STAY JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MIYA.

POP
SH
AA
THERE'S A GIRL AT THE FRONT GATE!

No!
I BET A THOUSAND YEN THEY'D HOOK UP!
DID SHE KICK HIM TO THE CURB?
SO WHAT HAPPENED, SHUN?
DROP IT!
RAWR
SHUT UP!
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY
IT'S THE RAIN'S FAULT ...
HARD TO SAY...
IS IT OVER?
See you
TIC
TIC
TIC

I ...
...GOT YELLED AT BY A TEACHER TODAY.
HUH?
B-DM B-D B-DM
S... SURE.
SORRY ...
...ABOUT THE OTHER DAY. YOU KNOW, THE PHONE CALL, AND THE CALL BEFORE THAT.
I GOT IN A FIGHT WITH TENMA, TOO.
I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT SCHOOL RULES AND...
OH! SORRY!
WELL ...
THAT BOY WHO WAS SCREAMING IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL YESTERDAY WAS THE SAME ONE WHO STOOD AT THE GATE FOR THREE DAYS WHILE YOU WERE ABSENT, WASN'T HE?
WHAT'S YOUR RELATION TO HIM?
MY MOTHER HASN'T TALKED TO ME SINCE LAST NIGHT...
...BUT...
THREE DAYS?

DAH
SUKA-CHAN! UMBRELLA!
SWEEE
What are we gonna do with him?
HERE YOU GO.
HYO
What's going on?
Don't go! Okay, beyond this point
No shaving
Back up / Back up.
HSC

THAT DAY ...

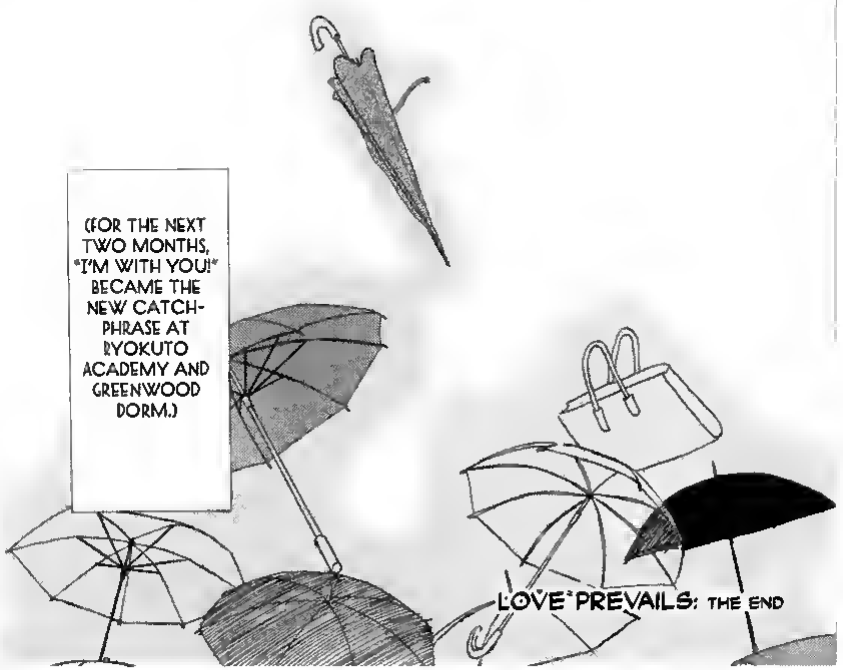
GRAB
IT'S OKAY!
I...
...WANT TO BE A BETTER PERSON.
I ALSO ...
...I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
...BUT I...
I'M WITH YOU!

A HEALTHY CRIME

...THANKS TO THE VICTORY WON BY A HARD-WORKING BOY BORN UNDER AN ILL-OMENED STAR...

...RYOKUTO ACADEMY RECEIVED NOISE COMPLAINTS FROM THE LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD, WHICH IT HADN'T HAD IN YEARS.

(FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, "I'M WITH YOU!" BECAME THE NEW CATCH-PHRASE AT RYOKUTO ACADEMY AND GREENWOOD DORM.)

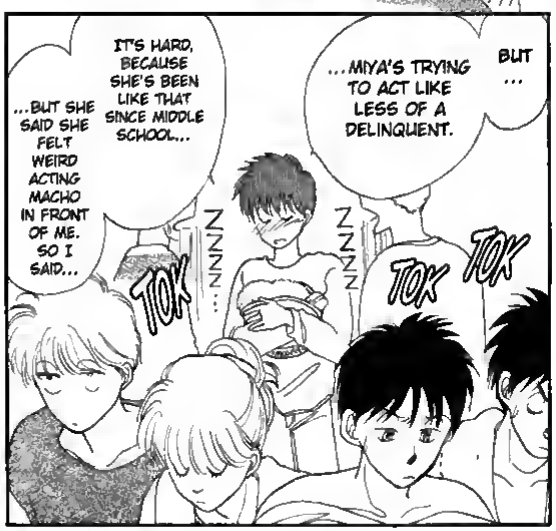


A HEALTHY CRIME

EEK!
HEH HEH HEH ...
NYA
ARC
RICHI!
IT'S OKAY! GO FOR IT! I'M WITH YOU!
KIT
OKAY!
PEANUT GALLERY
EXAMPLE 3
ARRGH!
A PERFECT HAND
I WIN THIS ROUND!
RON!
BUT ...
DING DONG
HASU-KAWA FROM ROOM 210. YOU HAVE A CALL.
DASH
SLAM
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
STOMP STOMP
THEY'LL JUST KEEP USING IT.
KICK
HEY!

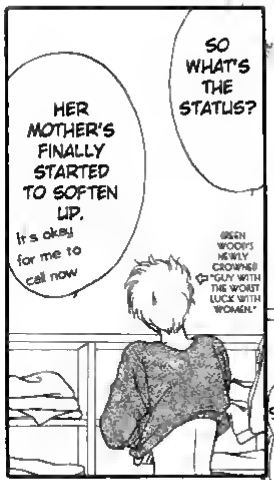
TWEET
TWEET
EXAMPLES OF GREENWOOD'S NEW FAVORITE CATCHPHRASE IN ACTION...
IF I FAIL TODAY, I'LL HAVE SIX PIECES TO RETRANSLATE!
CHOMP
CHOMP
EXAMPLE 1
THAT FOR CLASSICS WITH TACHIYAMA?
...BUT I HAVE A FEELING HE MIGHT HAVE A BETTER HAND...
WHAT TO DO? I WANT TO CALL MY RICHI...
EXAMPLE 2
DAMN IT!
GOOD LUCK!
I'M WITH YOU!
DAK

COME ON. DETAILS! WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO LOSE?
WHAT'S WITH YOU GUYS?
SO? ANY PROGRESS WITH MIYA?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
OBEY YOUR SEMPAI'S ORDERS!
YOU'VE GROWN UP.
HOW CAN THIS BE? HASUKAWA, YOU'RE... MANLY!


...BUT SHE SAID SHE FELT WEIRD ACTING MACHO IN FRONT OF ME. SO I SAID...
IT'S HARD, BECAUSE SHE'S BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL...
...MIYA'S TRYING TO ACT LIKE LESS OF A DELINQUENT.
BUT ...
ZZZZ...
ZZZZ
TOK
TOK
TOK

SO ...
IGNORING THE SHOT...

Listen!
Listen!
CLING


HER MOTHER'S FINALLY STARTED TO SOFTEN UP.
It's okay for me to call now
SO WHAT'S THE STATUS?
GREEN WOODS NEWLY CROWNED "GUY WITH THE WORST LUCK WITH WOMEN."
SIGH!

HELLO? IT'S ME.
...THE LOVEBIRD ALWAYS WON OUT IN THE END.
SNIFFLE

I TRY TO MAKE HER FEEL BETTER, BUT I CAN'T FIX THINGS FOR HER.
SO...
KEEP THE CHANGING ROOM, CH...
BUT MIYA'S STILL ON SHAKY GROUND. THAT HASN'T CHANGED.

WE SHOULD HAVE SUCH PROBLEMS.
IDIOT!
SOME HAPPY ENDING.
CHAK

I'm not going to let the teasing get me down!
...I WANT TO BE STRONG FOR HER. IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO.
MADI PARTY

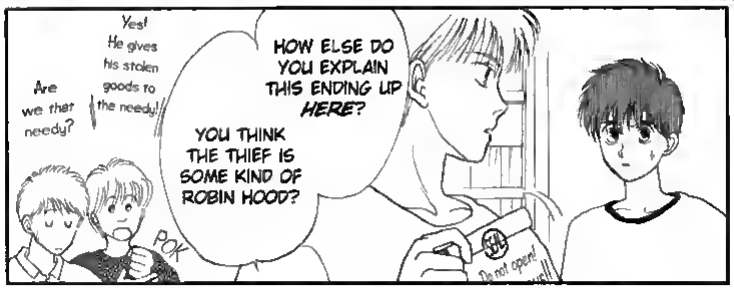
KAPOW
HOW COULD YOU?
AHHH! AHHH!
WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE?
IT'S NOT MINE!
WHAT IF HER PARENTS FIND OUT?
NO, IT'S NOT!
Ohhh.
SO THIS IS HER...
YAWN
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, IT'S NOT MIYA'S!
IS THAT ...
HUH.
LOOK AT THIS!

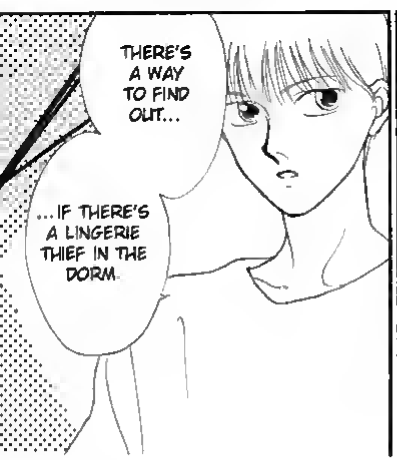
SLAM
SUKA-CHAN!
JUST AN ORDINARY DAY...
WHAT YOU DO IS YOUR BUSINESS!
BUT ...
I DON'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING AGAINST YOU AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND!
SUKA-CHAN!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D BRING THIS STUFF INTO OUR ROOM!
SHOOD
YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL!
... SHOULDN'T YOU SHOW SOME RESTRAINT?
LOOM

TIMES LIKE THIS, YOU SEE HOW DIFFERENT THEY ARE.
Yup.
WHY, YOU ...
NUDGE
HERE. HERE. HERE. HERE.
UH ...
HERE.
BOING
YOU'RE THE DORM HEAD.
HUH? WHY ME?
HOLD ON TO THIS FOR NOW, HASUKAWA.
It's a lost item.
A FEW DAYS LATER ...
HASUKAWA! COME HERE!
MAYBE IT WAS A GIFT FOR YOU!
MAYBE SOMEONE WAS JEALOUS OF YOUR HAPPINESS AND DID IT TO SPITE YOU!
POK
EITHER WAY, IT'S STAYING IN YOUR ROOM.

HASUKAWA DOESN'T HAVE THE BALLS TO GO THAT FAR.
OF COURSE IT ISN'T.
SUCH A RISQUÉ ITEM...
Who could it be?
THAT MEANS SOMEONE BROUGHT IT INTO THE DORM.
CHOKE CHOKE CHOKE
FOUND IT IN THE HALL.
WHERE'D YOU GET IT FROM?
WHY'RE YOU FREAKING OUT? IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE'S WEARING IT.
SHINOBU!
DON'T ANALYZE IT!
WHOA
BUT WHY WOULD IT BE IN FRONT OF HASUKAWA'S ROOM?
It's cheap underwear...
YNK

BUT THAT WOULD MEAN SOMEONE IN THE DORM IS AN UNDERWEAR THIEF!
SEAL
Do not ope
Dangerous..
SO...
...YOU THINK THIS IS ONE OF THE STOLEN ITEMS?


Yes! He gives his stolen goods to the needy!
Are we that needy?
HOW ELSE DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS ENDING UP HERE?
YOU THINK THE THIEF IS SOME KIND OF ROBIN HOOD?
POK
Do not open!


THERE'S A WAY TO FIND OUT...
...IF THERE'S A LINGERIE THIEF IN THE DORM.

THERE'S A LINGERIE THIEF AT LARGE... AND HASUKAWA'S GIRLFRIEND IS GIVING HIM HER UNDERW—

MAYBE THE TWO INCIDENTS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER!

BRAWN
...THIS.

THIS MORNING ...
...I WAS CLEANING THE YARD, AND I FOUND...
WHAT IS IT?

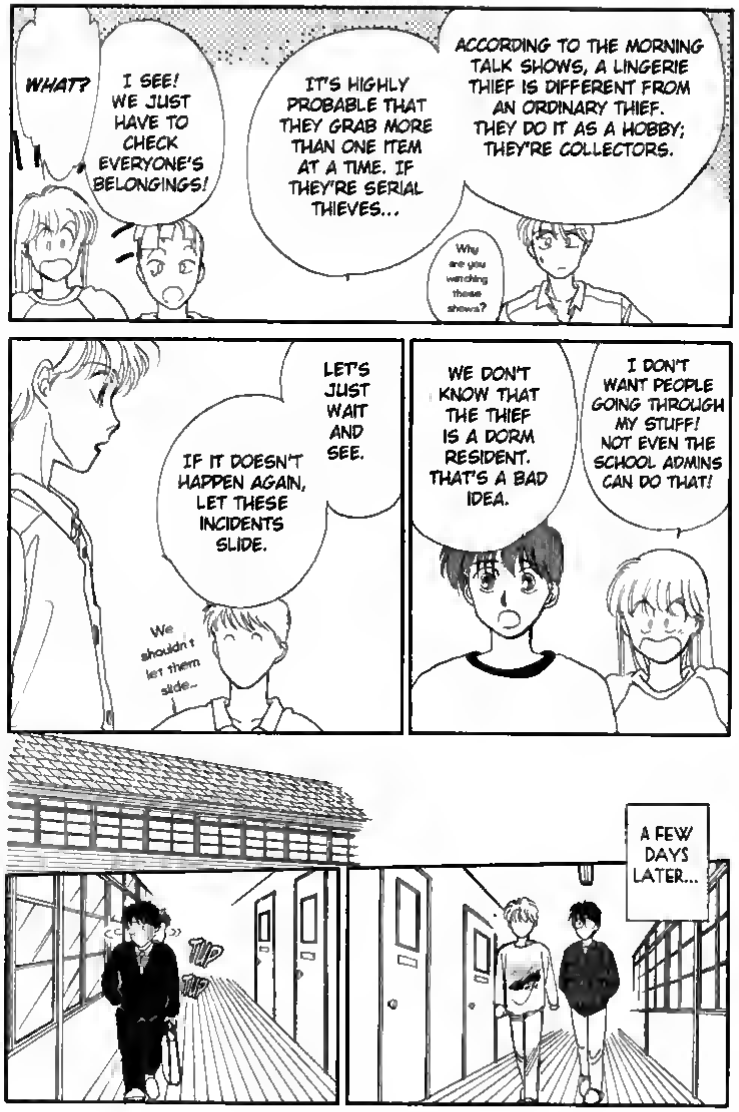
I DOUBT THIS...
GIGI!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
1 A resident is stealing underwear
2 A resident is a transvestite
3 It's a resident's late mother's keepsake

PAT PAT
I TRUST YOU GUYS, OF COURSE.

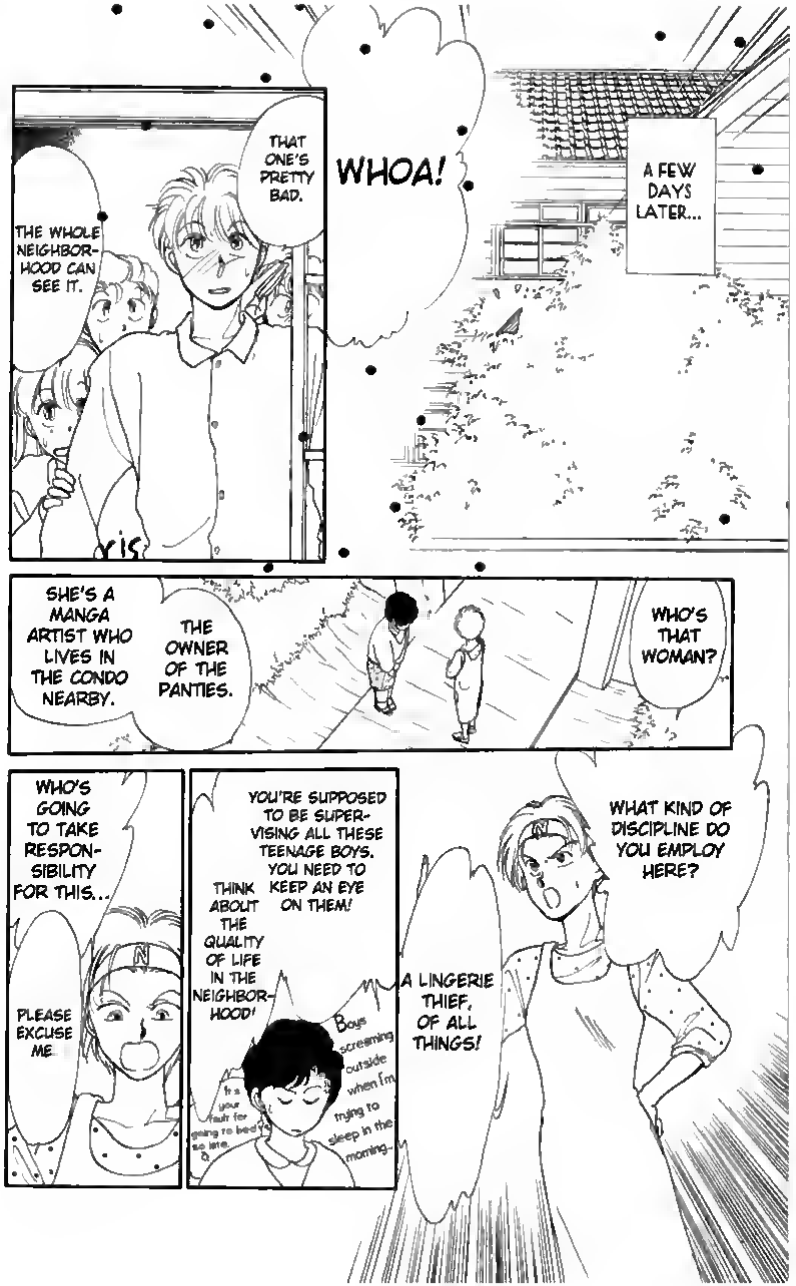
JUST KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ME, HASUKAWA.

...BUT APPARENTLY THERE'S A LINGERIE THIEF PREYING ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

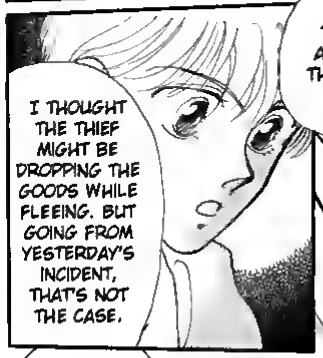
WAIT.
TUP TUP
Uh...
OOF
DAH
AAAH! I'M SORRY!
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?
SO YOU'RE THE GUY!
I'M SORRY! I DON'T KNOW WHY I DID IT!
YES! I SWEAR!
YOU FOUND IT?
SEMPAI! THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
NO! I FOUND IT!
YOU IDIOT! WHY DID YOU STEAL LINGERIE? IF YOU WANT IT THAT BAD, WHY NOT JUST PAY FOR IT?
I WAS PLANNING TO THROW IT AWAY! I SWEAR!
IT'D BE BAD IF SOMEONE SAW IT THERE, RIGHT?
I JUST FOUND IT BY THE GATE!
Now you're lying...

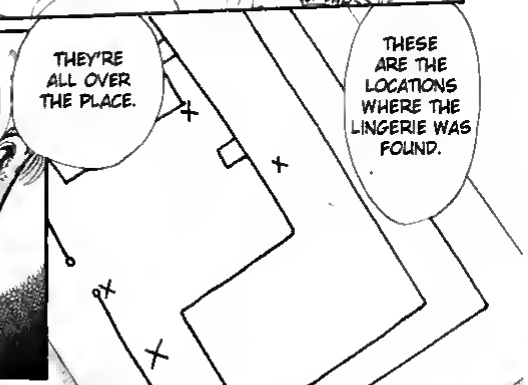

WHAT?
I SEE! WE JUST HAVE TO CHECK EVERYONE'S BELONGINGS!
IT'S HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT THEY GRAB MORE THAN ONE ITEM AT A TIME. IF THEY'RE SERIAL THIEVES...
ACCORDING TO THE MORNING TALK SHOWS, A LINGERIE THIEF IS DIFFERENT FROM AN ORDINARY THIEF. THEY DO IT AS A HOBBY; THEY'RE COLLECTORS.
Why are you watching these shows?
LET'S JUST WAIT AND SEE.
IF IT DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN, LET THESE INCIDENTS SLIDE.
We shouldn't let them slide...
WE DON'T KNOW THAT THE THIEF IS A DORM RESIDENT. THAT'S A BAD IDEA.
I DON'T WANT PEOPLE GOING THROUGH MY STUFF! NOT EVEN THE SCHOOL ADMINS CAN DO THAT!
TUP TUP
A FEW DAYS LATER...

YOU CHASED THE THIEF OFF YOUR PORCH, BUT YOU LOST HIM NEAR GREENWOOD. THEN YOU SAW THAT.
I SEE... THE INCIDENT OCCURRED AT 4:00 AM.
I UNDERSTAND.
Why was she awake at 4:00 AM?
She's a manga artist
CAN YOU TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED?
SING
Hmph
LEAVE THIS TO US.
HUH?
WE'LL CATCH THE THIEF.
...
DON'T THINK YOU BOYS CAN COVER FOR EACH OTHER!
HEAR
OF COURSE NOT.


WHOA!
THAT ONE'S PRETTY BAD.
THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD CAN SEE IT.
A FEW DAYS LATER...
SHE'S A MANGA ARTIST WHO LIVES IN THE CONDO NEARBY.
THE OWNER OF THE PANTIES.
WHO'S THAT WOMAN?
WHO'S GOING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS...
PLEASE EXCUSE ME
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SUPERVISING ALL THESE TEENAGE BOYS. YOU NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM!
THINK ABOUT THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
Boys screaming outside when I'm trying to sleep in the morning.
It's your fault for going to bed so late.
A LINGERIE THIEF, OF ALL THINGS!
WHAT KIND OF DISCIPLINE DO YOU EMPLOY HERE?

LISTEN TO ME.
WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE'LL DO TO YOU? SHE'S NUTS!
She has a big "N" on her head!
BUT IF THE THIEF IS A DORM RESIDENT...

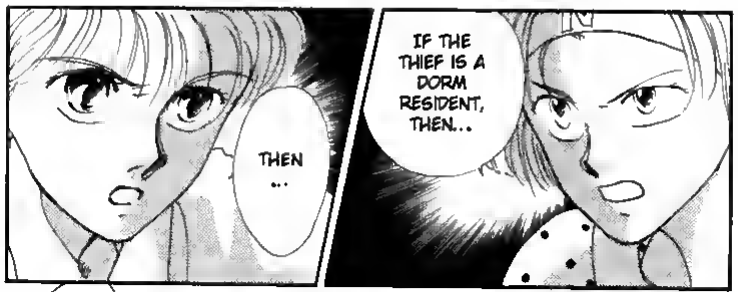

I THOUGHT THE THIEF MIGHT BE DROPPING THE GOODS WHILE FLEEING. BUT GOING FROM YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT, THAT'S NOT THE CASE.


THEY'RE ALL OVER THE PLACE.
THESE ARE THE LOCATIONS WHERE THE LINGERIE WAS FOUND.

A RESIDENT COULD'VE FOUND THAT ITEM AND BROUGHT IT INSIDE THE DORM.

BUT AN OUTSIDER WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DROP PANTIES IN FRONT OF OUR ROOMS!
SOMEONE COULD BE TRYING TO FRAME GREENWOOD FOR THE CRIME.

I'M WONDERING IF THEY WERE DROPPED ON PURPOSE.
HM


THEN ...
IF THE THIEF IS A DORM RESIDENT, THEN...

I LOOK FORWARD TO IT!
OH HO HO HO HO HO
ERG ...
WAIT!
DEAL!
... WE'LL HAND HIM OVER WITH THE THIEF, AND YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH HIM.

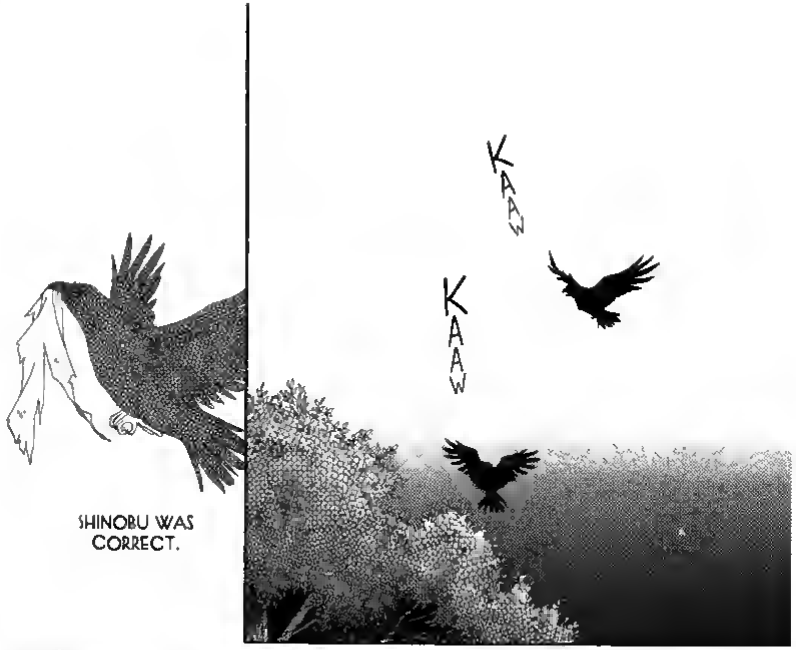
YEAH, BUT ...
IF WE DON'T CATCH THE THIEF SOON, THE SCHOOL WILL BE HIT BY SCANDAL.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
211
ARE YOU SURE IT WAS OKAY TO SAY THAT?

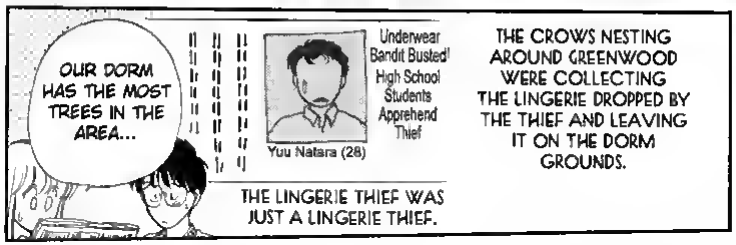
THE THIEF WILL SHOW UP AT THE DORM, RESIDENT OR NOT.
THAT'S WHEN WE NAIL HIM!
That's what the talk shows said.
THE THIEF SHOWED UP AT THE MANGA ARTIST'S HOUSE AT 4:00 AM.
WE CAN ASSUME THAT HE'LL ACT AT AROUND THAT TIME AGAIN.
Still watching that stuff?
EVERYONE WILL BE PLACED ON ROTATING STAKEOUT POINTS WHERE THEY CAN SEE BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE.
GRAB TWO OR THREE GUYS YOU CAN TRUST. DON'T RAISE ANYONE ELSE'S SUSPICIONS.
IF THE POLICE END UP CATCHING A RESIDENT...
...IT'LL BE THE FIRST BLEMISH ON GREENWOOD'S HISTORIC NAME.
WE NEED TO CATCH THE THIEF OURSELVES, NO MATTER WHAT!
AND IF THE THIEF IS A DORM RESIDENT, MITSURU WILL BEG FOR FORGIVENESS WITH HIS BODY.
Please stop

IN THAT CASE, THE THIEF IS PROBABLY AN OUTSIDER.
THIS IS ONLY SPECULATION...
...BUT IT MIGHT BE SOMEONE WITH A GRUDGE AGAINST THE DORM.
SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
A PROFESSIONAL THIEF DOESN'T STEAL ON A WHIM.
USUALLY, THEY STRIKE AT A SET TIME.
WE'RE GOING TO HOLD A STAKEOUT!

SHUK
THE SUN IS STARTING TO RISE.
TAK
HUH?
WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU, PANTY THIEF!
HUUUH?
THERE HE IS!
YEEK

I WOULDN'T DO THIS IF IT WAS COLDER.
YAWN
ME NEITHER.
THANK GOD IT'S STILL WARM.
*THEY CHECKED EACH OTHER'S BELONGINGS JUST IN CASE.
A CAR WENT BY. NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
HOW'S THINGS?
WHERE'D HE GET THIS?
I HOPE IT'S NOT A DORM RESIDENT.
HOPE SO, TOO.
Geez-
MAX
*THESE TWO WERE RECRUITED BECAUSE THEY'RE DEFINITELY NOT SUSPECTS.
I THINK THAT'S A SEPARATE ISSUE...
WHY ARE PEOPLE SO QUICK TO NAIL YOUNG GUYS AS PERVS?
IT'S PROBABLY SOME OLD FAMILY GUY GOING THROUGH A MIDLIFE CRISIS.
SLURP
IF ONE OF US TURNS OUT TO BE THE THIEF...
IT'D BETTER NOT BE A RESIDENT.
IT'S ALMOST 5:00 AM
MAYBE HE'S NOT GOING TO SHOW UP TONIGHT.
...HOW CAN I FACE MIYA?
SELFISH THOUGHTS

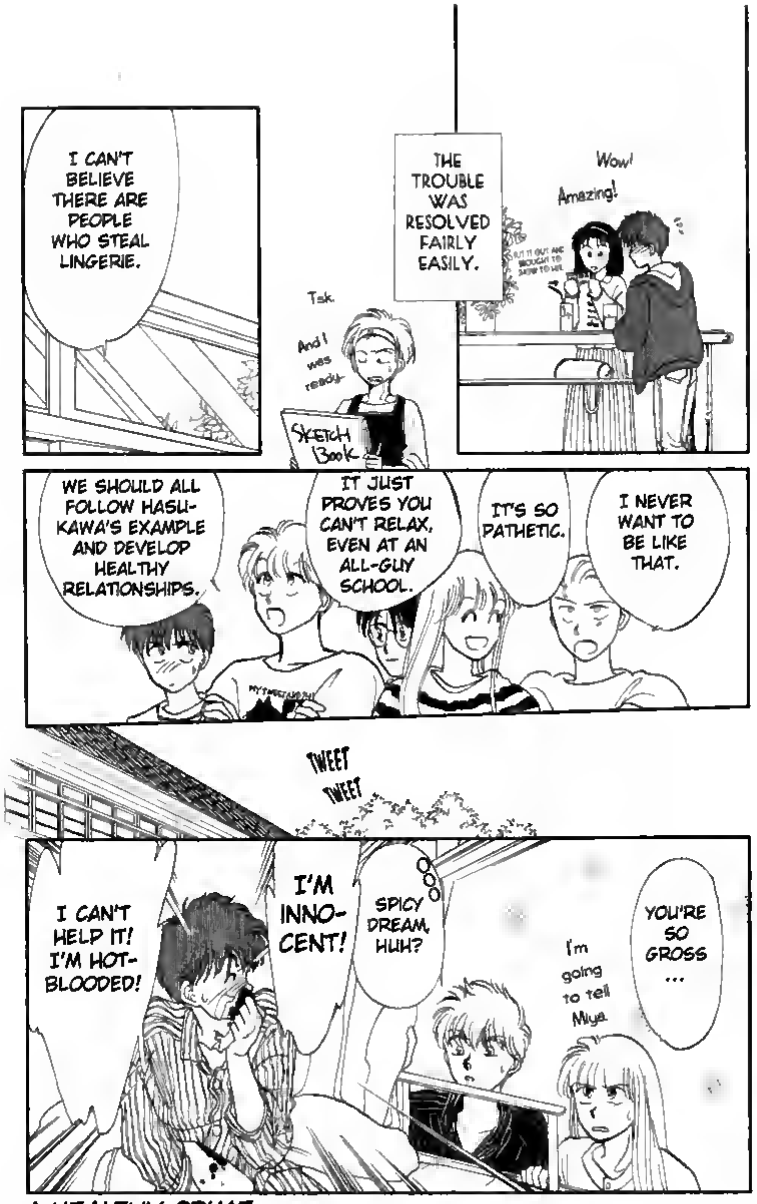

KAAW
KAAW
SHINOBU WAS CORRECT.


OUR DORM HAS THE MOST TREES IN THE AREA...
Underwear Bandit Busted! High School Students Apprehend Thief
Yuu Natara (28)
THE CROWS NESTING AROUND GREENWOOD WERE COLLECTING THE LINGERIE DROPPED BY THE THIEF AND LEAVING IT ON THE DORM GROUNDS.
THE LINGERIE THIEF WAS JUST A LINGERIE THIEF.

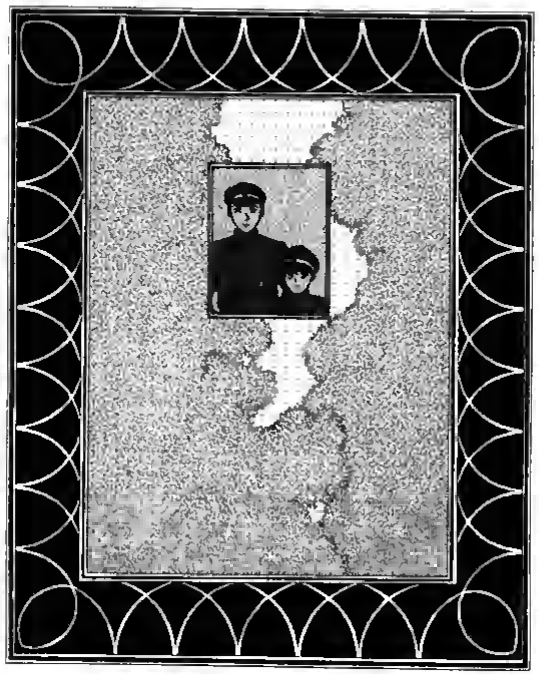
Didn't you think about what would happen? You must be blood type O!
...but I didn't have the courage so I just left it there
I'M SORRY. I WAS PLANNING TO REPORT IT TO YOU..
THE UNDERWEAR IN FRONT OF HASUKAWA'S ROOM WAS PLACED THERE BY A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT WHO FOUND IT.

WOK
DASH
WAIT!
WHO ARE YOU?
WHO IS THIS GUY?
I'M JUST AN INNOCENT LINGERIE THIEF!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I FOUND THE CULPRIT.
I KNOW. WE JUST ...
HUH?
SHUN?
THEY CAUGHT HIM!
LET'S GO, SHINOBU!
WHAT?
THEM.

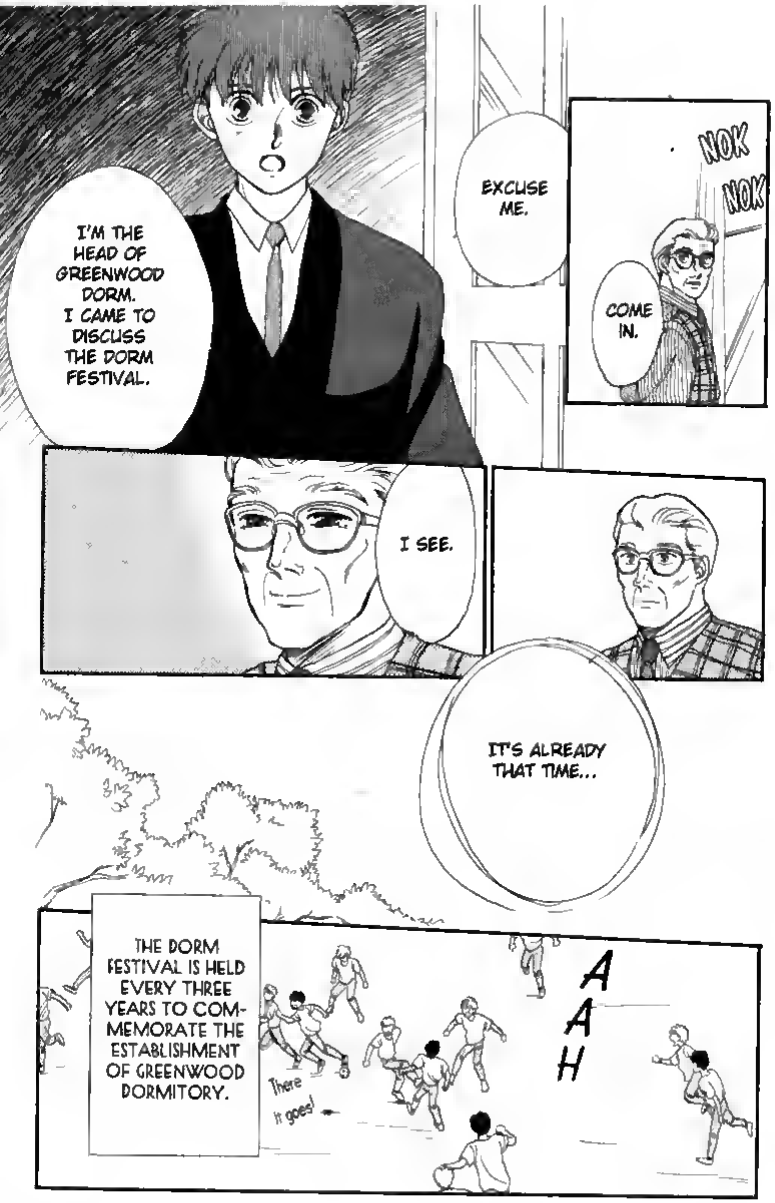
GOLDEN WEEK


I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO STEAL LINGERIE.
THE TROUBLE WAS RESOLVED FAIRLY EASILY.
Wow!
Amazing!
Tsk.
And I was ready.
SKETCH Book
WE SHOULD ALL FOLLOW HASUKAWA'S EXAMPLE AND DEVELOP HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.
IT JUST PROVES YOU CAN'T RELAX, EVEN AT AN ALL-GUY SCHOOL.
IT'S SO PATHETIC.
I NEVER WANT TO BE LIKE THAT.
TWEET TWEET
I CAN'T HELP IT! I'M HOT-BLOODED!
I'M INNO-CENT!
SPICY DREAM, HUH?
I'm going to tell Miya.
YOU'RE SO GROSS ...

A HEALTHY CRIME: THE END

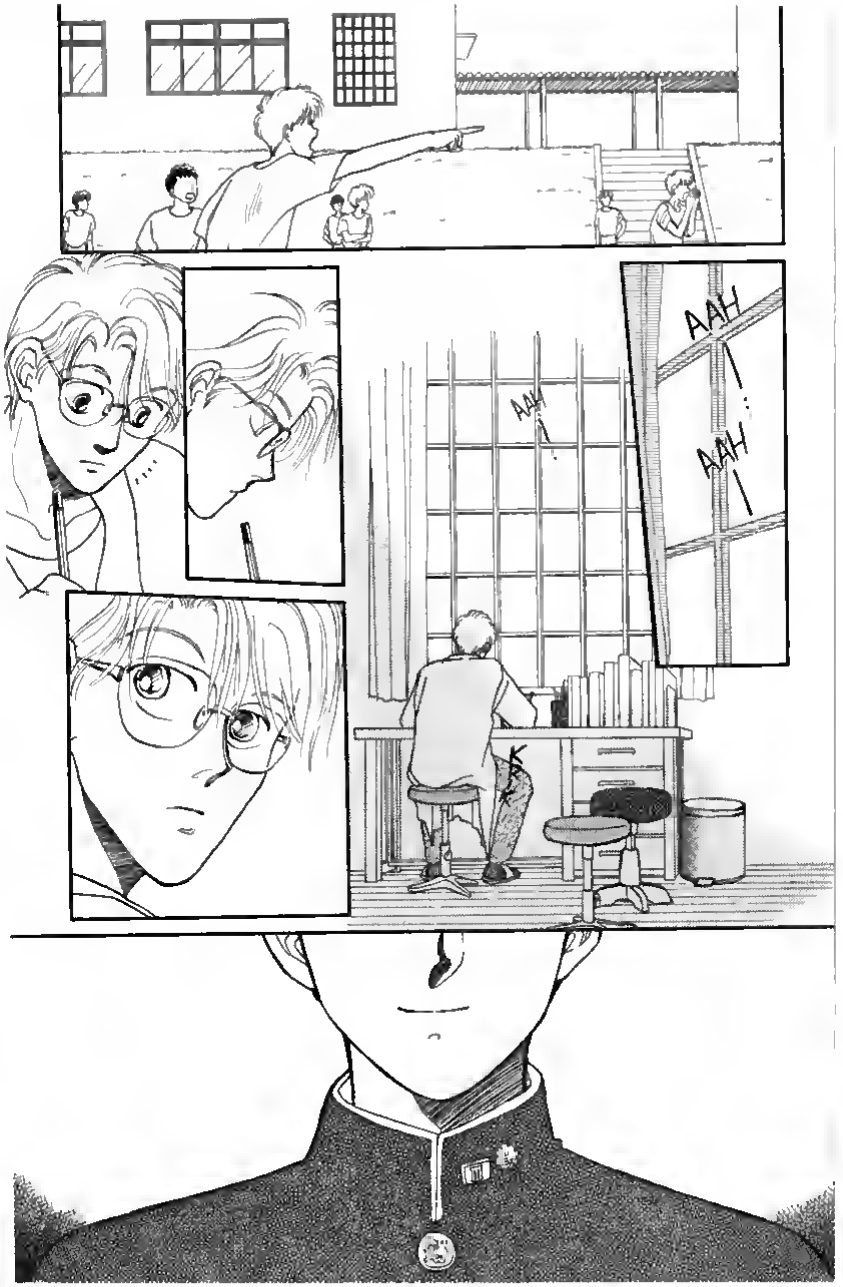


GOLDEN WEEK


I'M THE HEAD OF GREENWOOD DORM. I CAME TO DISCUSS THE DORM FESTIVAL.
EXCUSE ME.
NOK NOK
COME IN.
I SEE.
IT'S ALREADY THAT TIME...
THE DORM FESTIVAL IS HELD EVERY THREE YEARS TO COMMEMORATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GREENWOOD DORMITORY.
There it goes!
AAH

YEAH!
SEE YOU LATER!
WELL, LOOK AT THAT.
...ARE THE PLANNED VISITS...
ON THE 20TH, EFFORTS TO RECOVER FALLEN JAPANESE SOLDIERS FROM WWII TOOK PLACE ON SAIPAN ISLAND...
SPRING IS FINALLY HERE, SIR!
...CONTINUING TO THE RECOVERY EFFORTS OF FALLEN SOLDIERS.

Cavities
I THOUGHT SOMEONE WAS THERE ...
MUST'VE BEEN MY IMAGINATION.
GREENWOOD DORMITORY WAS ESTABLISHED IN MAY.

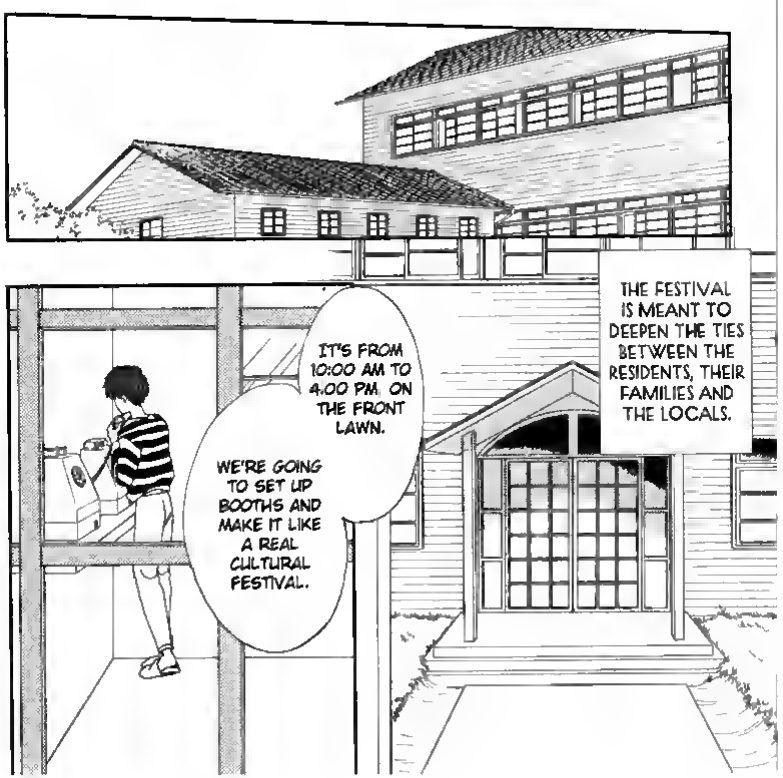

AAH!
AAH!
AAH!

SO WHAT?
Don't be jealous.
GEEZ... WE'RE SWAMPED, AND HE'S CALLING HIS WOMAN.
YEAH! COME IF YOU CAN. IT'S FINE!
...OKAY!
CAN I...
...GO, TOO?

MY, YOU'VE DONE YOUR HOMEWORK!
THIS'LL BE A BIG HELP!
OFFICIAL + WORK RELATED V 9T
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
HERE. THE ESTIMATES FROM MY MANAGER.

EXPECT A LOT OF ALUMNI BARGING IN FOR THE FESTIVITIES.
IT'S NOT GONNA BE EASY FOR THE CURRENT RESIDENTS.
YEAH. I'LL STOP BY.
ARE YOU COMING, SEMPAI?
SEE YOU. GOOD LUCK!
IT'S GOING ...
...TO GET ROWDY AGAIN.
I'D BETTER MAKE THE ROUNDS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD NOW.

I DUNNO.
DID HE LIVE IN THE DORM?
SHK
I DIDN'T KNOW THE PRINCIPAL WAS A RYOKUTO ALUMN.
YEAH, AND HE GAVE US A NICE BUDGET TO WORK WITH.
THE DORM FESTIVAL ISN'T A SCHOOL EVENT, SO THE PREPARATIONS AND FESTIVITIES TAKE PLACE DURING GOLDEN WEEK.


IT'S FROM 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM. ON THE FRONT LAWN.
WE'RE GOING TO SET UP BOOTHS AND MAKE IT LIKE A REAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
THE FESTIVAL IS MEANT TO DEEPEN THE TIES BETWEEN THE RESIDENTS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THE LOCALS.

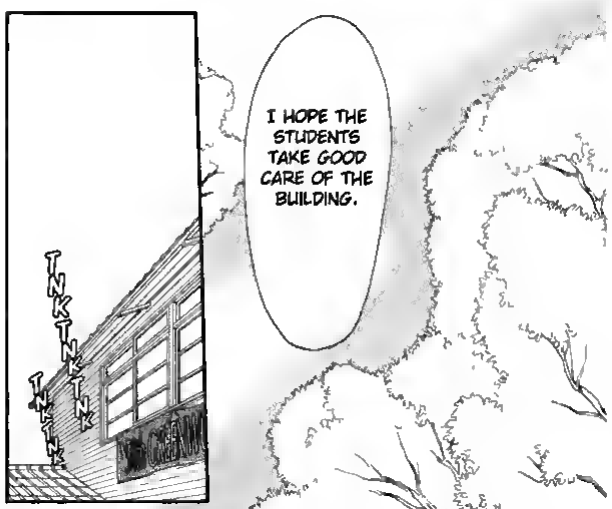
SEM-PAI!
TUDD
TUDD
NO. IT'S NOT A HOLIDAY IN SINGA-PORE...
IS YOUR CUTE LITTLE SISTER COMING?
MY MOTHER SAID SHE'S COMING.
REALLY? NICE!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, FRED?
They're so loud!
THERE'S GUYS DOING BAND PRACTICE IN THE MEETING ROOM!
THE DORM IS A RESIDENTIAL SPACE, SO THE PREPARATIONS CAUSE A LOT OF PROB-LEMS. THAT'S WHY THE EVENT IS NOW ONLY HELD EVERY THREE YEARS.
BOO
BOO
Not at night!
Where are we supposed to practice?
THE FESTIVAL IS STILL HELD EVERY THREE YEARS...
What should we make for dinner?
...SO EACH RESIDENT CAN EXPERI-ENCE IT AT LEAST ONCE.
THE PARTY'S AT NIGHT SO THE DINNER IS GRANDER THAN USUAL

CREAK
?
CREAK
THEY'RE NORMAL!
BRACE YOURSELVES! HIS SIBLINGS ARE NOT NORMAL!
REINA AND MY DAD ARE COMING!

STOP WATCHING AND HELP US—
GEEZ...
TNK TNK
SHUT UP AND WORK.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT.
TNK TNK TNK TNK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THERE'S NO ONE THERE.
BUT... I...
GREENWOOD D

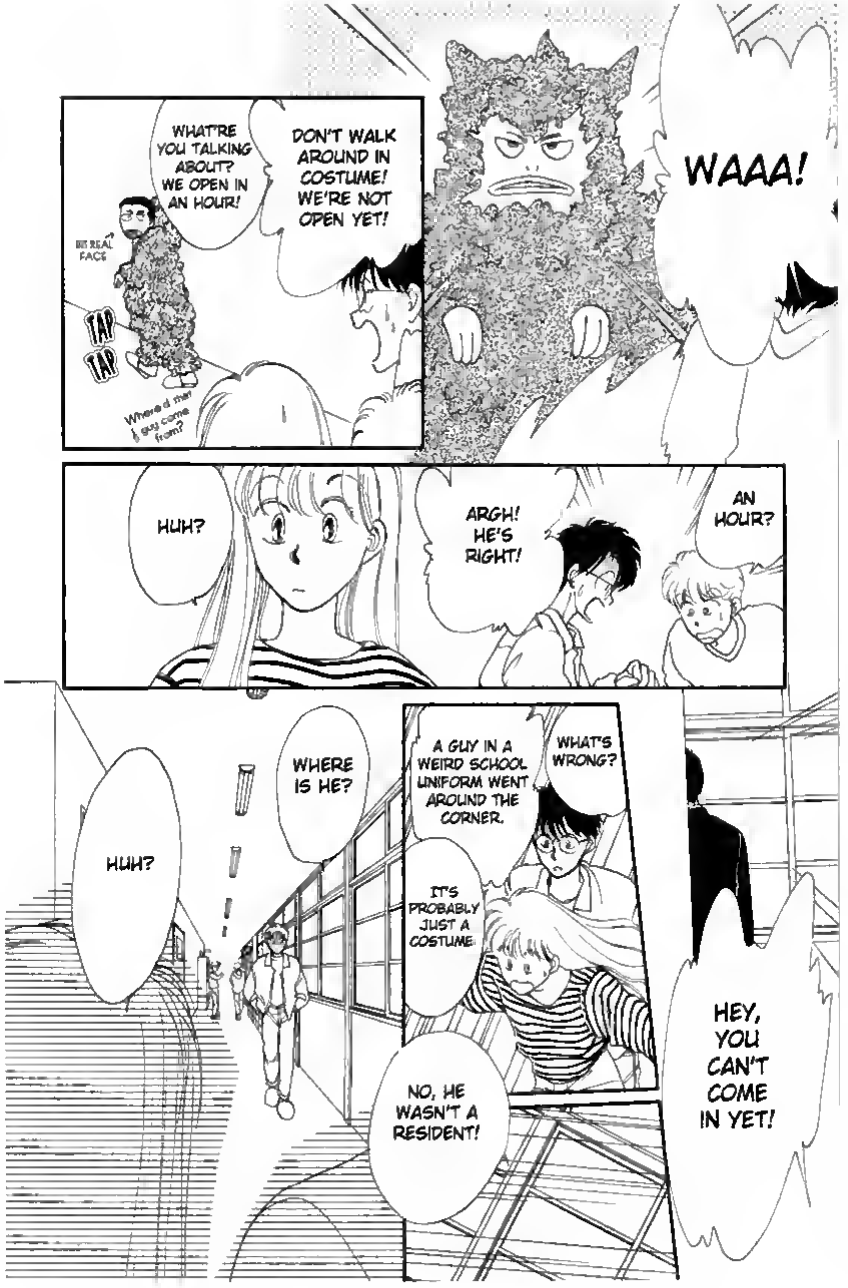
WELCOME TO GREENWOOD!
GREENWOOD DORMITORY FESTIVAL
G.W.
DORMITORY festival
CLANK CLANK CLANK
Maruichi Foods
VROOM
AHH...
DAMN IT... ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS IS ENOUGH. BASTARDS...
NOT ENOUGH→ SLEEP
AWAKE!!
HEY.
WUP WUP
NNN...
IT'S MORNING.
IT'S HERE!
OVER HERE, PLEASE!
MORNING! DELIVERY FROM MARUICHI FOODS!

...WHEN I WAS A STUDENT HERE, THE WAR HAD JUST STARTED...


I HOPE THE STUDENTS TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE BUILDING.
TNKTNKTNK
TNKTNK

YOU COULD SAY THAT. YOU, TOO?
MAKING A HOUSE CALL?
HELLO, DR. HASHIKAWA.
SIR!
NO, NO.
YOU'RE UP EARLY.
GREENWOOD
I SEE.
I ENJOY THE DORM FESTIVAL, TOO.
I'M JUST GOING AS AN ALUMNUS.
I EAGERLY AWAIT EACH OF THESE FESTIVALS.
I DO... BUT...
I'M SURE YOU MUST HAVE MANY MEMORIES FROM YOUR STUDENT DAYS.
NO, I'M A LOCAL.
DID YOU LIVE IN THE DORM?

WHOA!
WATCH OUT!
OUTTA THE WAY! COMING THROUGH!
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?
I SAW IT, TOO!
I SWEAR!
STOP JOKING AROUND! WE'RE BUSY! IT'S ALMOST TEN!
A GHOST... IN A SCHOOL UNIFORM?
THNK THNK THNK THNK
ROOM


WAAA!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE OPEN IN AN HOUR!
DON'T WALK AROUND IN COSTUME! WE'RE NOT OPEN YET!
HIS REAL FACE
TAP TAP
Where'd that guy come from?
HUH?
ARGH! HE'S RIGHT!
AN HOUR?
HUH?
WHERE IS HE?
A GUY IN A WEIRD SCHOOL UNIFORM WENT AROUND THE CORNER.
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S PROBABLY JUST A COSTUME.
NO, HE WASN'T A RESIDENT!
HEY, YOU CAN'T COME IN YET!

I KIND OF DOUBT THAT...
HEY!
THERE HE IS!
1991
ORM FESTIVAL
WE'RE A LITTLE EARLY.
SPRING CERTAINLY HAS SPRUNG...
THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROB-LEM.

WAS HE THIS TALL?
BUT IT'S DAYTIME...
...I COULD SEE RIGHT THROUGH HIM!
I THOUGHT IT WAS A GUY I'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE, AND THEN I REALIZED...
SHINOBU!
OUR SCHOOL HAD A UNIFORM LIKE THAT UNTIL EIGHT YEARS AGO.
I SAW HIM, TOO!
SHUN?
DON'T JUST STAND CALMLY AROUND! DO SOME-THING!
A LOT OF OLD ALUMNI ARE COMING IN TODAY. WE HAVE TO KEEP THEM HAPPY.
SEMPAI!
DON'T TELL ME YOU SENSE SOME-THING...
MAYBE IT'S SOMEONE WHO WAS LYNCHED AND KILLED AT A LONG-AGO DORM FESTIVAL!

LONG TIME NO SEE.
HEY.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN THERE.
I HEARD THE NEWS ABOUT THE RECOVERY OF THE SOLDIERS' REMAINS.
...NEVER GAVE UP UNTIL THE END.
HA HA HA!
NO ONE COULD MATCH YOUR ALL-NIGHTERS BEFORE EXAMS...
YOU...

WHATEVER HE IS, I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD LET HIM HANG AROUND THE ENTRANCE.
I WONDER WHO HE IS. AND WHY HE'S HERE...
HMM...
OH, NO!
SEE? YOU CAN SEE THE GROUND THROUGH HIM.
HOW CAN HE STAND OUT IN THE OPEN, IN BROAD DAYLIGHT?
He's so bold...
IT'S THE PRINCIPAL!

HE LIVED HERE IN THE DORM.
I SPENT A LOT OF TIME HERE WITH HIM.
HIS NAME IS SAKURAZAWA. HE WAS MY CLASSMATE AND FRIEND.
HE LEFT FOR THE ARMY SHORTLY AFTER WE GRADUATED.
WHEN HE HEADED OFF TO WAR, WE PROMISED TO MEET AGAIN AT GREEN-WOOD.
...AND THAT'S WHEN I LEARNED HE'D DIED IN THE WAR, SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.
THE DORM FESTIVAL STARTED BACK UP IN 1952...

I ALWAYS BELIEVED YOU'D COME HOME SOMEDAY.
NISHIKAWA.
I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO SEE YOU.
I'M LEAVING NOW.

HEY!
WHOA
How did we book her?
Mitsuru picked her up...
...from that commercial girl
THE DORM FESTIVAL WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH.
I'm not getting paid, but here I go!
Don't tell the agency. ♡
Course not.
PEOPLE WERE TOLD TO LEAVE ONCE THEY'D CHECKED OUT THE FESTIVAL ..
...BUT SOME JUST COULDN'T.
Mitsuru-sempai!
Mitsuru!
Where's Mitsuru?

HE REMEMBERED ...
...OUR PROMISE...

HOLIDAY

KANPAI!
TO THE 50TH GREENWOOD DORM FESTIVAL!
THUS THE DORM FESTIVAL ...
...CAME TO ITS ROWDY END.
KANPAI!
CRACK
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
GOLDEN WEEK: THE END

HOLIDAY

THE DORM FESTIVAL WAS OVER...
...BUT BEFORE THE STUDENTS COULD RELAX, THEY HAD MAJOR CLEANUP
ONE WEEKEND, AFTER EVERY-THING WAS OVER...
WHAT THE ...?
WAAA...
CHNK
CHNK

WAIT!
DASH
BAM
HASU-KAWA!
SINCE 1991...UCC
TK TK TK
!
EMERGENCY ALERT TO ALL RESIDENTS!
DING DONG DING DONG

SHINOBU! ♡ CAN I BORROW LUNCH MONEY? ♡
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I SPENT A LOT ON STUFF FOR THE DORM FESTIVAL...
...AND NOW THE BANKS ARE CLOSED!
AW, CRAP. I FORGOT TO CASH THE CHECK MY PARENTS SENT ME.
27 yen...
Unbelievable...
DID YOU SEE ME GO TO THE BANK IN THAT TIME?
WHAT WITH THE DORM FESTIVAL AND CLEANUP, WE'VE BEEN PRETTY MUCH ATTACHED AT THE HIP UNTIL YESTERDAY.
NO NEED TO BE SNOOTY ABOUT ...
105 YEN

BANG BANG BANG
LOOK, I ONLY NEED TO BORROW MONEY UNTIL TOMORROW!
I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE! OPEN UP!
I won't!
Don't surrender no matter what!
BANG BANG BANG
HEY!
HOW CAN WE LAST UNTIL TOMORROW AFTERNOON WITH 132 YEN?
...TO REMAIN CALM!
YOU HAVE 27 YEN. I HAVE 105 YEN.
When did we agree to a merger?
AS WILL I.
YOU'RE MUCH LESS RESPECTED THAN I THOUGHT.
I'll remember this day.
SLAM
SCREW THEM!
Ask someone else!
Hey I'm broke!
AGREED!
THAT MEANS ...
IF WE BEG HASUKAWA AND THE OTHERS, THEY MIGHT LEND US MONEY FOR LUNCH... BUT TO HELL WITH THAT.
THERE'S AN ATM THAT'S OPEN ON SUNDAY, S SUBWAY STOPS AWAY. BUT WE DON'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH FOR THE FARE.
YOU ALWAYS LOSE YOUR COOL WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY.
DON'T TALK LIKE IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!

OVER AND OUT!
SHUE
...HAVE A COMBINED TOTAL OF 132 YEN!
AT PRESENT, SHINOBU-SEMPAI AND MITSURU-SEMPAI...
SHI
HEE
HEE
HA HA ...
HA HA HA HA HA ...
ING
THAT DIRTY LITTLE ...
YOU SHOULD BE PROUD. YOU RAISED HIM WELL.
HE'S TOUGHENED UP A LOT.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME ...

SUPPOSED TO BE A DISGUISE.
PACHINKO
WELCOME!
HEY, I DON'T PLAY PACHINKO!
You're turning into more and more of an old man.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
I'M A PRO.
IF YOU LOSE IT, IT'S YOUR HEAD.
PARKING LOT OF PACHINKO PARLOR
These lower-class recreations aren't my thing.
YEAH, YOU KNOW ...
IF YOU CAN WIN THIS MUCH OFF 100 YEN, IT'S A WASTE FOR YOU TO STAY IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I'D HAVE NO PROBLEM MAKING A LIVING AS A PRO.
KACHAK KACHAK KACHAK

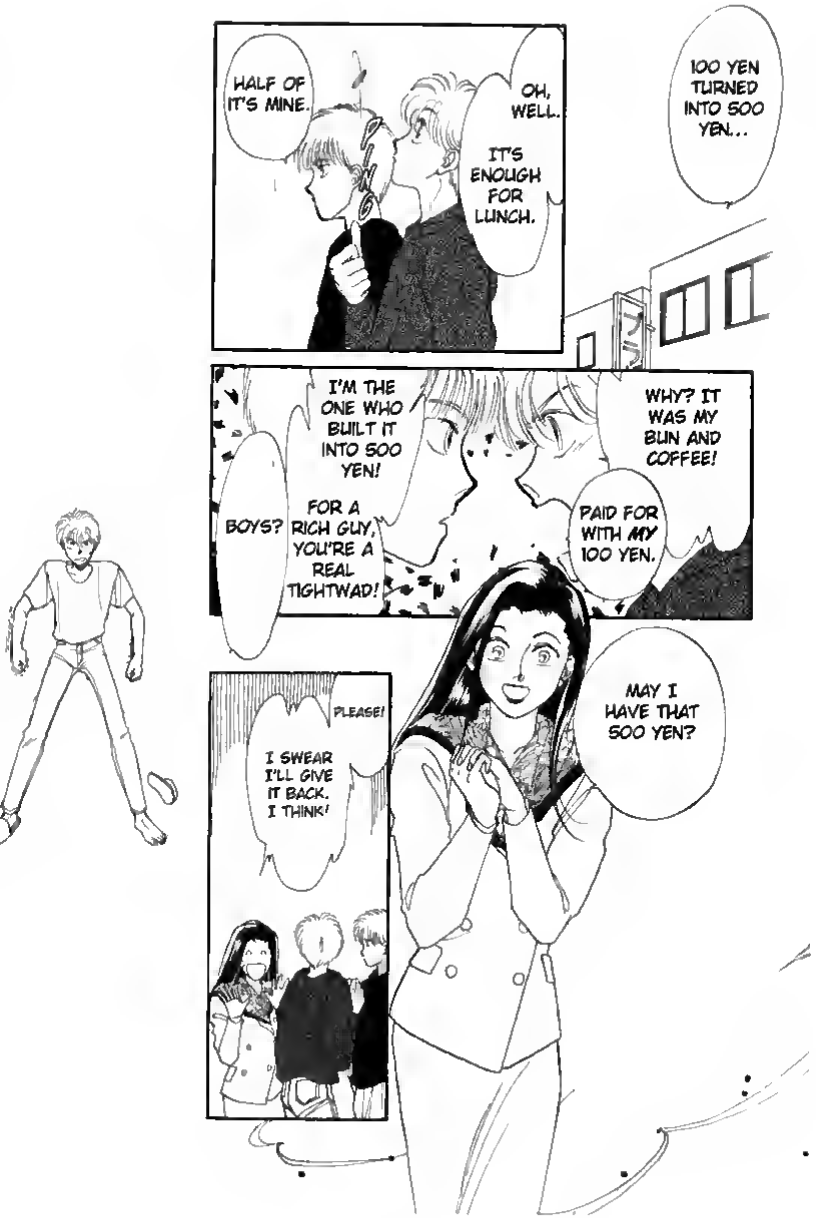
I WON'T STOP YOU.
ARE YOU SUGGESTING WE STAND ON A STREET CORNER AND WAIT FOR A WOMAN LIKE YOUR SISTER TO PICK US UP?
EARN IT? HOW?
...WE'LL HAVE TO EARN IT OUR-SELVES.
HOW ABOUT I SPONSOR YOU WITH THIS?
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
100
PACHINKO
ER... UM...
HMM... I HAVEN'T DONE IT IN A WHILE ...
...BUT A MAN'S GOTTA DO WHAT A MAN'S GOTTA DO.
CRUNCH
PLUS IT'S ILLEGAL...
YAKUZA NOT ALLOWED

ALTHOUGH HE'S COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS..
COME TO THINK OF IT, HASUKAWA'S PRETTY LUCKY.
SEEMS LIKE HIS WORLD STILL REVOLVES AROUND HIS BROTHER.
And he has a wife and kid!
Never underestimate him.
DAMN HIM! HOW CAN HE DO THIS TO US, WHEN HE HAS SO MUCH?
What can we do? He's the main character
PEOPLE DON'T STOP AND THINK HOW FORTUNATE THEY ARE...
I GUESS ...
...WE DON'T USUALLY REALIZE THESE THINGS.
TO THE DORM FESTIVAL?
YEAH.
MUCH
DID YOU KNOW SHO CAME?
WHEN THEY DO...
...AND HOW MUCH THEY ARE LOVED.

COULDN'T YOU JUST BORROW IT?
I SEE.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WANTED MONEY
THANKS TO SOMEONE'S LITTLE BROTHER, ALL POSSIBLE LENDERS ARE AVOIDING US.
YOUR PARTNER'S SMOKING OUTSIDE.
CHIK
CHIK
CHIK
MAKE DO WITH THESE SNACKS.
Hardship in youth builds character!!
TOSS
TOSS
I'LL LET YOU OFF THIS TIME, BUT DON'T EVER DO IT AGAIN.
OH. I SEE.
...
COME BACK! STOP YOUR STUDENTS FROM GOING DOWN THE WRONG PATH!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF AN EDUCATOR?
SEE YA.

OH.
PACHINKO
SHA
I'M WAITING FOR MOMMY.
ARE YOU ALL BY YOURSELF HERE?
MOMMY?
WHERE'S MOMMY?
I'M FINE.
GULP GULP
IT MUST BE ROUGH FOR YOU...
ARE YOU GOING BACK HOME AFTER YOU GRADUATE?
NO, I DON'T PLAN TO. WHY?
...DRINK THE WHOLE THING?
HEY! DID YOU ...
THAT'S SO SAD
STOP IT!
TAK

WHAT THE... WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
AUGH!
FISH
SHUNNED SINCE THE END OF LAST YEAR
HE STILL WON'T TALK TO YOU?
WELL ...
...I'M SURE IT'LL BLOW OVER SOON...
THIS CHAPTER JUST KEEPS FOCUSING ON HOW PATHETICALLY POOR WE ARE.
It's so not me...
LET GO! IT'S MY LUNCH!
HEY! I NEVER SAID YOU COULD EAT THAT!
CHOMP
CHOMP
MY CURRY BUN!
SO MUCH FOR OUR LUCK TODAY...
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
Uh-huh.
HFF
HFF
HFF
CHOMP


100 YEN TURNED INTO 500 YEN...
HALF OF IT'S MINE.
OH, WELL. IT'S ENOUGH FOR LUNCH.
WHY? IT WAS MY BUN AND COFFEE!
I'M THE ONE WHO BUILT IT INTO 500 YEN!
FOR A RICH GUY, YOU'RE A REAL TIGHTWAD!
BOYS?
PAID FOR WITH MY 100 YEN.
MAY I HAVE THAT 500 YEN?
PLEASE!
I SWEAR I'LL GIVE IT BACK. I THINK!

MEGUMI!
...
OH, MY!
WELL?
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH YOU?
I'M SO SORRY!
MEGUMI, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE!
She's going to have one tough life.
COME ON, MEGUMI. LET'S GO.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
HERE. PLEASE BUY ANOTHER ONE.
TOK

NYA HA HA HA HA!
TAKE THAT!
FEEL THE WRATH OF THE COMMONERS, AFTER YEARS UNDER THE THUMB OF OPPRESSION!
VICTORY DANCE
NO WAY! CHICKENS ARE COMING HOME TO ROOST!
YOU SHOULD PUT THE PAST BEHIND YOU.
HID HIS WALLET IMMEDIATELY.
SUKA ...
YOU SURE ARE PERKY THESE DAYS.
I WONDER WHAT HIS GIRLFRIEND WOULD SAY IF SHE SAW HIM NOW...
MWA HA HA HA HA
HE MAY HAVE TOUGHENED UP...
...BUT PEOPLE NEVER REALLY CHANGE.
I'LL TAKE A PICTURE.

..BUT MY WALLET'S IN THERE, TOO.
I THOUGHT OF GOING HOME AND LEAVING THE CAR..
POP
LOOK AT THIS.
I SHUT THE DOOR WITH MY KEYS STILL INSIDE.
YOU THINK?
BUT ...
IF YOU LEAVE, YOUR WALLET AND CAR WILL GET STOLEN.
ARE YOU GUYS DOING ANYTHING RIGHT NOW?
PLEASE LET ME BUY YOU LUNCH TO THANK YOU!
HUH?
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO OPEN IT?
YOU'RE WELCOME.
WOW, YOU'RE AMAZING!
THANK YOU!
THIS WAS ALL ME.
WHEW
Nice

THEN
YES!
IF YOU WANT SOMETHING, JUST SAY SO!
SINCE SHE'S THE ONE OFFERING, I SAY GO FOR IT.
I'M NOT SURE IT'S COOL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A WOMAN WHO'S GETTING OVER A BROKEN HEART...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I'M RICH TODAY! I'LL BUY YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT!
HERE! I BET THIS WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YOU!
I LOVE IT!
I don't really do stuff like that...
DO YOU GUYS LIKE KARAOKE?

HAHAHAHAHA
I SEE!
IT'S NOT EASY BEING A STUDENT.
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO TODAY!
IT'S A HOLIDAY. DO YOU WANT TO HANG OUT?
HEY!
YOU TWO ARE SO FUNNY!
...BUT I GOT DUMPED!
I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO ON A DATE...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY PLANS FOR TODAY?
LET'S GO TO TOKO-ROZAWA. THE DOME WILL BE TOO CROWDED.
WANT TO SEE A BASEBALL MATCH? THEY'RE PLAYING DAY GAMES THIS WEEKEND.
...

IT'S MEGUMI.
BUT IT'S SO LATE...
WHAT'S WRONG?
OH, RIGHT ...
HUH?
HEY. WE'D BETTER GET BACK SOON.
HUH? WAIT...
Geez
I DON'T SEE HER MOTHER ...
DAK
GRAB

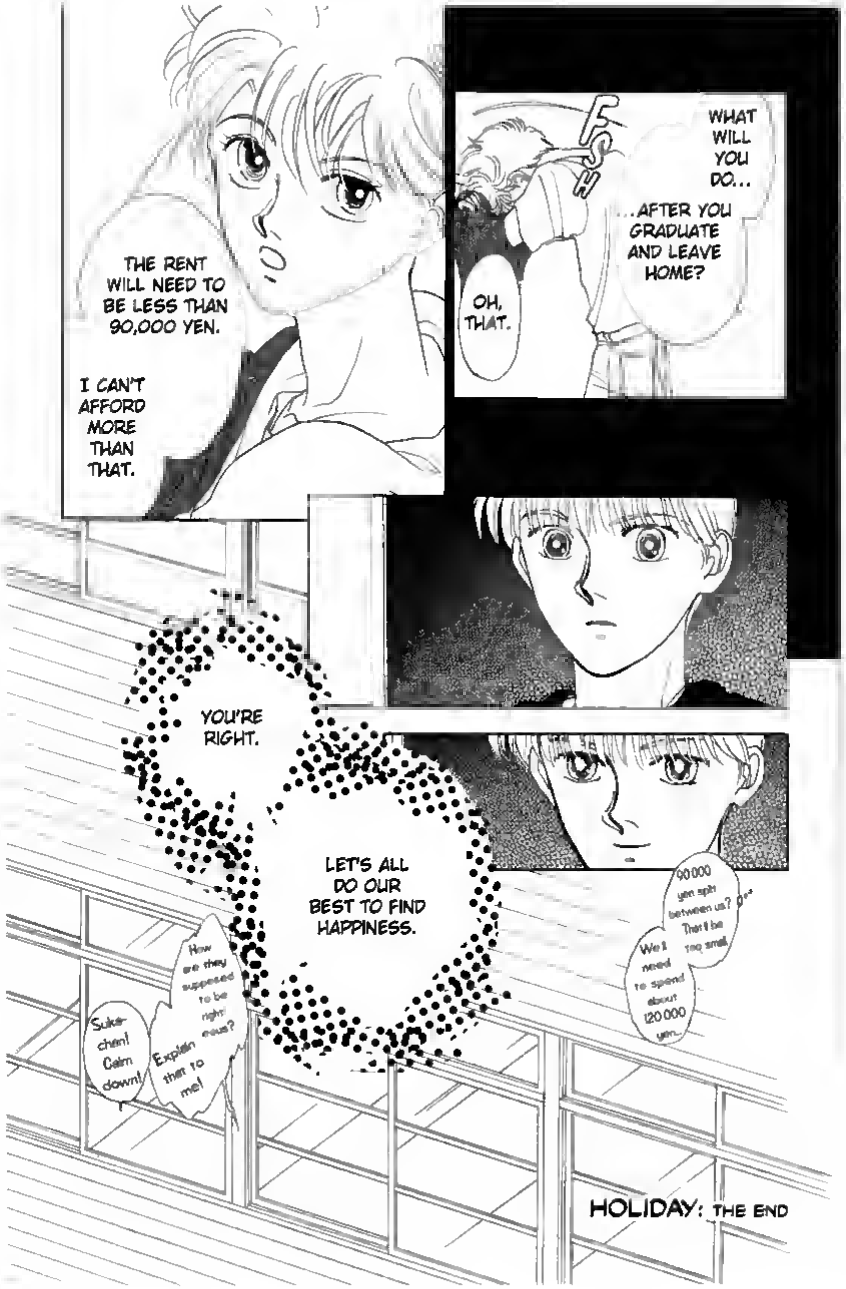
ARE YOU SURE WE CAN HAVE THIS?
OH, OF COURSE! TAKE IT! IT'S ALL YOURS!
EVERYTHING IS SO CROWDED ON A WEEKEND
IT JUST PISSED ME OFF! I WAS TRULY IN LOVE WITH HIM!
ISN'T THAT TERRIBLE? WHAT DOES HE THINK I AM?
HE TRIED TO BUY OUR BREAKUP BY GIVING ME THIS.
THIS MONEY ...
THANKS FOR SPENDING TIME WITH ME. I HAD A LOT OF FUN TODAY!
BUT HEY!
I JUST FELT SO PATHETIC ...
... YOU KNOW THE REST.
I GOT OUT OF MY CAR AND...
I WAS PLANNING TO BLOW IT ALL ON PACHINKO.

MEGUMI!
WHO'S THAT GUY?
Shut up!
WHO ARE YOU?
G... GET AWAY FROM ME!
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH HER?
MITSURU!
SH
IT'S A KIDNAP!
DAMN IT!
BAM
DU
GRD
WE DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE A KIDNAPPER OR A PERVERT. DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE ACTING A BIT INCRIMINATING?
THAT WAS SO COOL!
NOT BAD, SON!
YOU ASKED FOR IT.
Reverse kick!
CR
ACK
HER MOTHER JUST REPORTED HER MISSING.

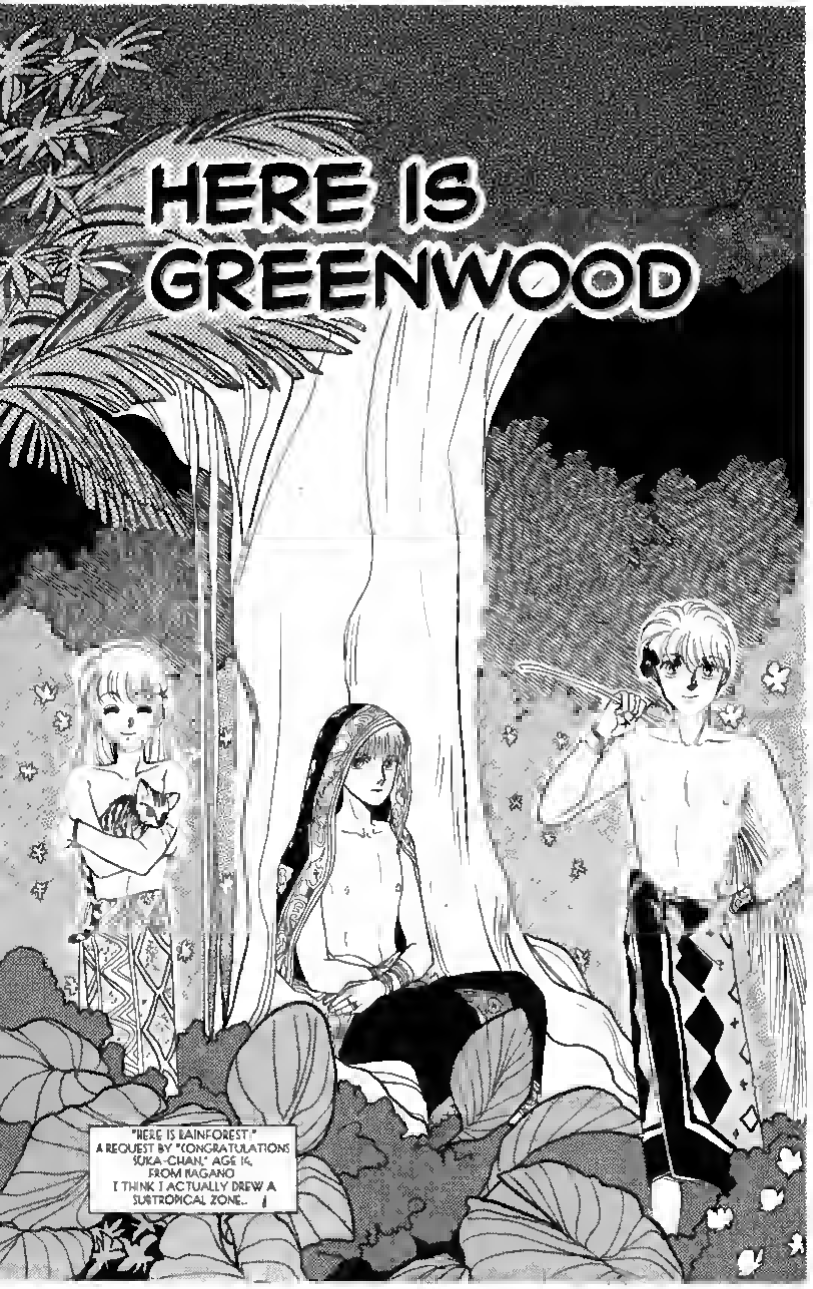
WIP
WIP
BYE!
SEE YOU SOON!
IT'S POSSIBLE ...
VOOM...
A DAY LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN ...
FATE SMILES UPON THE RIGHTEOUS!
HA HA HA HA
NO FAIR..
WH ...
WHAT ...
We got lucky today.
GIFTS
PLOP
MITSURU?
WHAT?
IT WASN'T TOO BAD.
WE DEFINITELY GOT OUR 100 YEN'S WORTH, RIGHT?
PRETTY HECTIC, THOUGH.
CRK

MEGUM!!
LET'S BRING YOU BACK TO MOMMY.
WE'LL CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL IN REGARDS TO THIS.
YOU CAN DO IT!
TIME FOR MY HAPPY ENDING, TOO!
UGH..
SO MUCH FOR THAT!
CRACK
CRACK

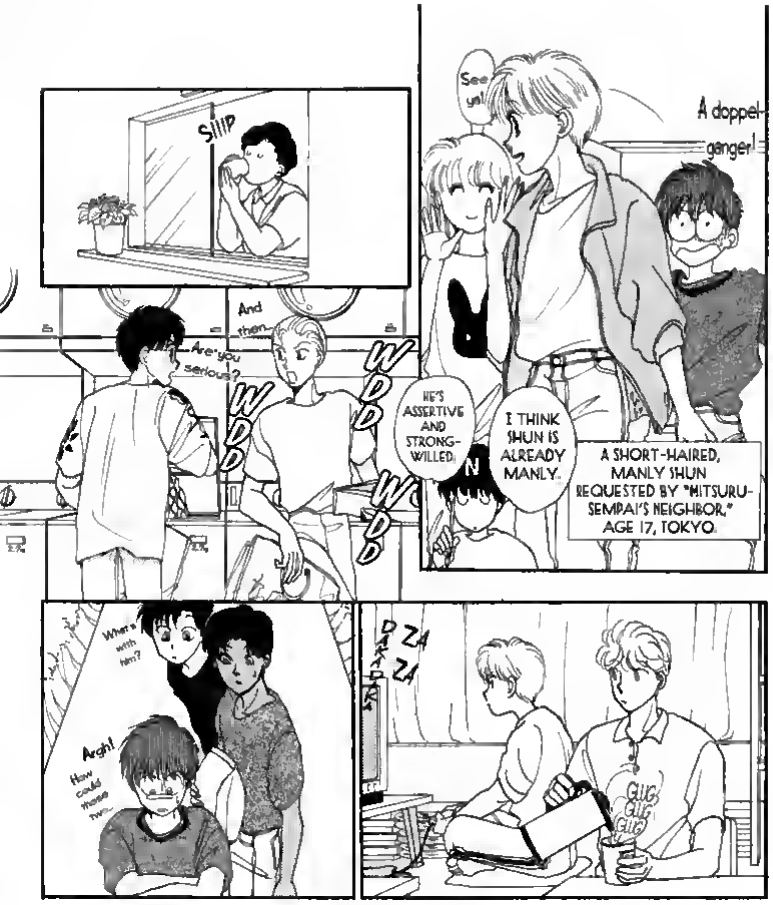
HERE IS GREENWOOD


THE RENT WILL NEED TO BE LESS THAN 90,000 YEN.
I CAN'T AFFORD MORE THAN THAT.
WHAT WILL YOU DO...
...AFTER YOU GRADUATE AND LEAVE HOME?
OH, THAT.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
LET'S ALL DO OUR BEST TO FIND HAPPINESS.
90,000 yen split between us? That'll be very small.
We'd need to spend about 120,000 yen.
How are they supposed to be right-eous?
Explain that to me!
Suke-chan! Calm down!
HOLIDAY: THE END

210
NOK NOK
2
HASUKAWA?
CHAK
HUH?
JUST LIKE THAT.
NOW SHOW ME YOUR RIGHT THUMB.
PUT YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HIPS.
WHAT IS IT?

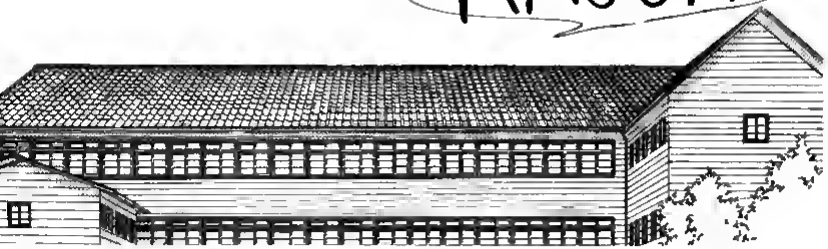

HERE IS GREENWOOD
"HERE IS RAINFOREST."
A REQUEST BY "CONGRATULATIONS SUKA-CHAN," AGE 14, FROM NAGANO
I THINK I ACTUALLY DREW A SUBTROPICAL ZONE..

"YEAH!"
He looks like a "Hmm... Mandom" ad! Remember those?
Yeah, from back when the author was in grade school.
...
THAT WAS A REQUEST FROM SHINTARO, AGE 14, FROM HYOGO.
UH HUH
THIS CHAPTER WILL CONSIST OF READER REQUESTS.
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR MANY LETTERS.
SORRY IF I COULDN'T FILL YOUR REQUEST

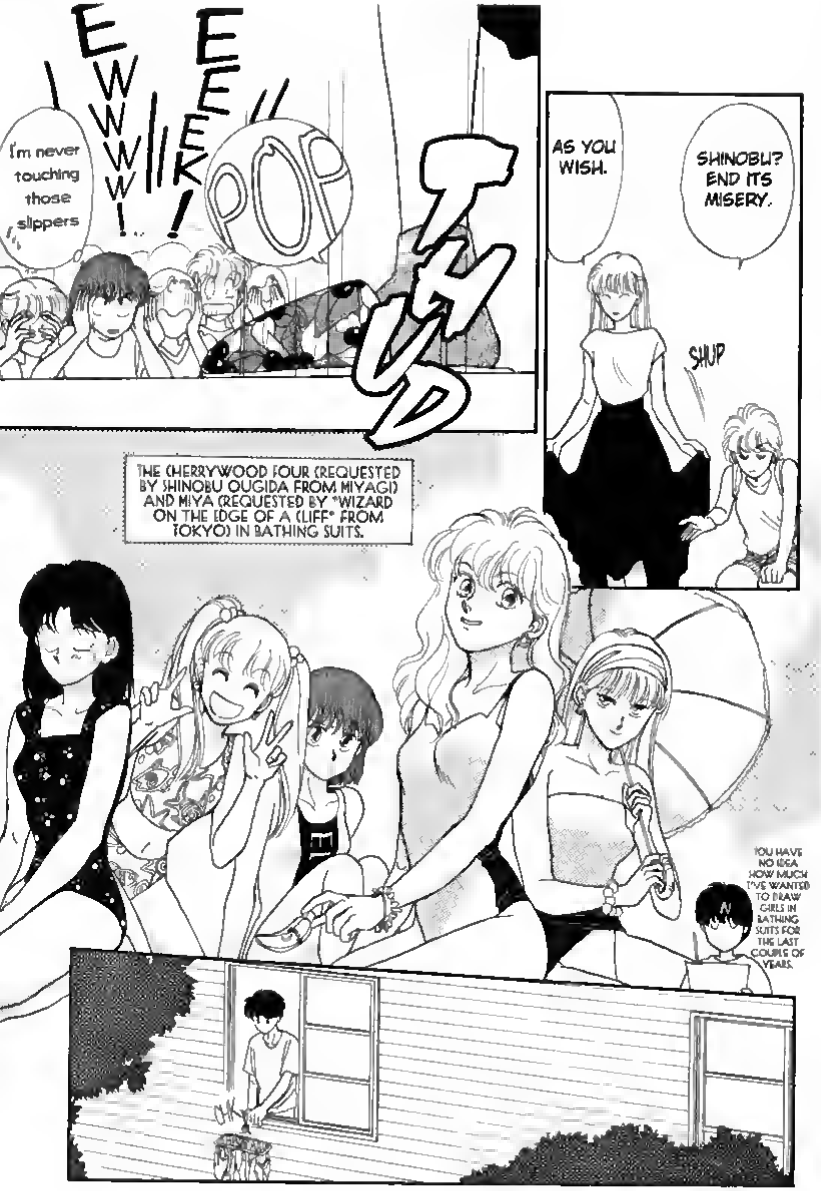


MEANWHILE, IN CHERRYWOOD, A PARALLEL UNIVERSE...

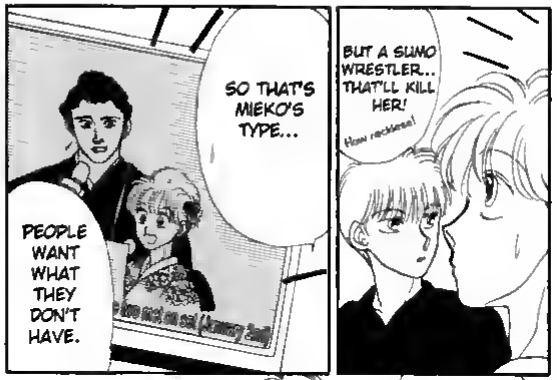
AAUGH!



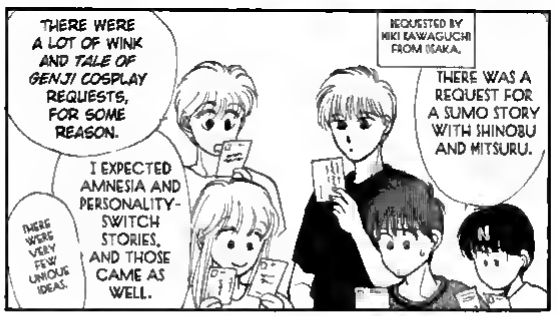
I HAVE GUESTS COMING, SO I'M GOING TO GET SOME SNACKS.
YEAH.
AH!
SUKA-CHAN, ARE YOU GOING SHOPPING?
GET THEM YOUR-SELF!
I ALSO WANT A 50 YEN MONO ERASER AND...
I WANT A PIE FROM DE SEIL!
COULD YOU PICK UP SOME STUFF FOR ME?
...IF I WAS A LITTLE MORE MACHO...
...WOULDN'T I OVERTHROW YOU AS THE MAIN CHARACTER?
DON'T BAT YOUR EYES AT ME! YOU'RE A GUY!
OH, COME ON!
DON'T BE SO MEAN.
BUT ...


EEEK!
EWWW!
I'm never touching those slippers
POP
THUD
AS YOU WISH.
SHINOBU? END ITS MISERY.
SHUP
THE CHERRYWOOD FOUR (REQUESTED BY SHINOBU OUGIDA FROM MIYAGI) AND MIYA (REQUESTED BY "WIZARD ON THE EDGE OF A CLIFF" FROM TOKYO) IN BATHING SUITS.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH I'VE WANTED TO DRAW GIRLS IN BATHING SUITS FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.

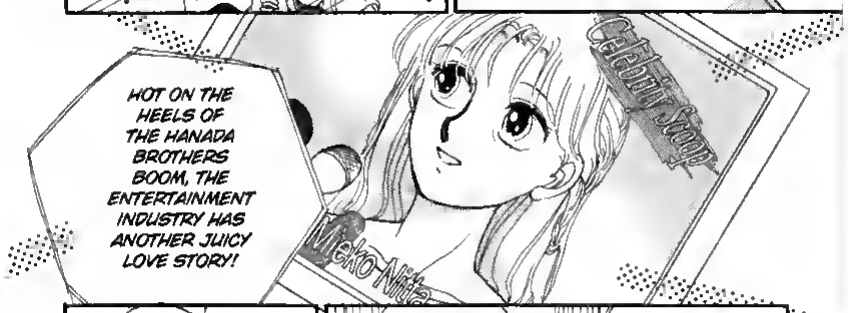
MOVE!!
DAK DAK DAK
EEEK!
THAT WAY!
OVER THERE!
WHERE? WHERE? WHERE?
THUD
EEEHUD
Ewwww!
SKRISH...
SPLAT
WUP
GOT'IM!
Go, Michiru!
FOUL BEAST!
HUFF HUFF
You're awesome!
EEEK!
TWITCH
PLOP


SO THAT'S MIEKO'S TYPE...
PEOPLE WANT WHAT THEY DON'T HAVE.
BUT A SUMO WRESTLER.. THAT'LL KILL HER!
(How reckless!)

MAYBE SHE WOULD HAVE LIKED FURUSAWA-SEMPAI!
CATCH A COLD?
AHCHOO!


THERE WERE A LOT OF WINK AND TALE OF GENJI COSPLAY REQUESTS, FOR SOME REASON.
REQUESTED BY MIKI KAWAGUCHI FROM OSAKA.
THERE WAS A REQUEST FOR A SUMO STORY WITH SHINOBU AND MITSURU.
I EXPECTED AMNESIA AND PERSONALITY-SWITCH STORIES, AND THOSE CAME AS WELL.
THERE WERE VERY FEW UNIQUE IDEAS.

WHAT'S WRONG?
OH, NOTHING ...
KSH KSH
I DIDN'T KNOW HE WORE BRIEFS!
TAKATAKATAK
WE GOT LUCKY!


HOT ON THE HEELS OF THE HANADA BROTHERS BOOM, THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY HAS ANOTHER JUICY LOVE STORY!
Celebrity Couple
Mieko Nitta

APPARENTLY ...
...ASAHIYAMA LEARNED THE TRUTH ABOUT HER. HE LISTENED TO HER PROBLEMS.

YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS, DIDN'T YOU, MITSURU?
SHE TOLD ME ON THE PHONE THE OTHER DAY
I only just found out
THIS JUST IN! POPULAR IDOL SINGER MIEKO NITTA AND SUMO STAR ASAHIYAMA ZEKI MET ON SET AND ARE DATING!
WHY IS MIEKO DATING A SUMO WRESTLER?

I'M SO BORED TODAY.
AND IT'S BEAUTIFUL OUT ...
I'M GOING TO WASH MY SHOES.
MIT-SURU?
SHK SHK SHK
DO WHAT?
ALL RIGHT! I'M GONNA DO IT!
DO MINE. 100 YEN.
PK
200 YEN.
DO 'EM YOURSELF.
500 YEN FOR TWO PAIRS.
CRUEL!

Nasu's gun
Nasu's horse
THIS ONE'S NOT TOO BAD!
WHAT THE ...?
WILD WEST REQUEST, BY YOSHI NAKAI FROM AICHI.
WELL... BECAUSE ...
WHY DIDN'T YOU EVER DO THEM?
YOU'VE HAD IDEAS FOR WILD WEST STORIES BEFORE.
YASUKO YOSHIDA FROM GUNMA, EH?
HAHAHA HA
"SHINOBU DOES THE LIMBO."
UH-OH, YASUKO'S LOOKS PISSED!
SPLASH
TRA LA LA
SHA SHA
WHOOP
SHA SHA SHA
TRA LA LA
SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING BY SHUN AND YUKI, REQUESTED BY MAYUMI KAMENUMA FROM KANAGAWA.
THERE WAS ALSO "RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS," BUT I DID THIS ONE.
TA-DA!
TA-DA!
SPIN
SPIN LA LA
WHOA!!
SOB!

...THEY WANT YOU TO COME HOME BECAUSE THEY HAVE SET UP AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE.
IT SEEMS ...
AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE?
...
EXCUSE ME, MADAM.
YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL FROM HOME.
GRR
WHAT ?
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO GET MARRIED!
OF COURSE, MADAM!
CLENCH
IMPOSSIBLE! HOW DARE HE TRY TO MARRY ME OFF?
Old bastard!
THAT HOUSE IS MINE!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SO LOYAL...
UNTIL THEN, DON'T GIVE UP HOPE!
THE DAY WILL COME WHERE EVERY MAN ON THIS EARTH WILL KNEEL BEFORE YOU!

KSHANK
BONJOUR!
REQUESTED BY MAKOTO TAKANO AND ASSISTANT K. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!
SHINOBU, TRÈS FRENCH.
HE MIGHT LOOK MORE LIKE TONY TANI THAN A FRENCHMAN.
HE'S WEARING PANTA LOOMS.
MEANWHILE, NAGISA TEZUKA...
SOME-WHERE... SHINOBU WAS JUST LAUGHING ...
HEE HEE HEE
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MADAM?

JUST THEN, RINKO ROKJYO WAS...

I DON'T CARE IF THE WORLD COMES TO AN END, AS LONG AS HE'S MISERABLE!
IT'S SHINOBU!
GOD!
PLEASE HEAR MY HUMBLE WISHES!
KAPOW
I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THE MEN OF THIS WORLD!
BRING THE MOST HORRENDOUS, CRUEL, DREADFUL, ULTIMATE, UNSPEAKABLE MISERY UPON HIM!
BE CAREFUL.. SUCH MISFORTUNE MAY FALL ON YOU..
KLANG
BRING MISERY TO SHINOBU!
SPLASH
AND THE GUY WHO MARRIES HER
I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE HER GO ON LIKE THIS.
I AGREE.
SADLY, I DOUBT MADAM'S WISH WILL EVER COME TRUE.
I have a feeling.

SHK SHK
HUH?
AND MINE!
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, WASH MINE, TOO!
HEY!
THEN DO IT YOURSELF.
WHAT? YOU'RE CHARGING US?
THAT'S TOO EXPENSIVE. 100 YEN!
NOPE.
300 YEN A PAIR!

To Ranko
I'm going home
Akira
HMPH.
GO HOME, THEN.

HMM HMM
LAA LAA LAA
PATTA
TAKKA TAKKA
TAKKA TAKKA
AT THE HASUKAWA HOUSEHOLD...
MM
TOK TOK
She sure can't sing..
LAA LAA
TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA
ROLL
AAA!
UWA UWA!
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF MIDORI HASUKAWA, REQUESTED BY RAZUKI FROM FUKUSHIMA.

WHAT? MITSURU'S WASHING OUR SHOES?
I WANT MINE DONE, TOO!
ME TOO! ME TOO!
EUH
500YEN PER PAIR
SCRUB SCRUB
GRIN
SEMPAI? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
What's with all the shoes?

GRANDMA, YOUR EYES ARE AS CLEAR AS ICE.
THE BETTER TO SEE YOU WITH.
Our outfits are cracking me up...
GRANDMA!
LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD. REQUESTED BY MIE ITO FROM MIYAZAKI.
IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT SHE REQUESTED BUT...
THE BETTER TO HEAR YOU WITH.
GRANDMA, YOUR VOICE IS CALM AND TENDER AS FOG.
ISN'T THIS STRETCHING IT A BIT?
THEY'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU ...
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE WAITING FOR SOME-THING...
GRANDMA, YOUR LIPS ...

SHUT UP AND SCRUB.
I'VE GOT GUESTS COMING!
TOSS
AT THE KISERAGI HOUSEHOLD...
YUI TOOK MY NOTE-BOOK!
MOOOM!
You're the big brother...
TOMA-RU?
OH.
THEY ALL SAY THAT.
THEY SAID THEY WANT TO SEE INSIDE THE DORM.
FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL.
WHO'S COMING?
MIYA?
TOMARU AND THE GANG.
STOP BRAGGING, WILL YA?
STILL CHEAP COMPARED TO MINE, THOUGH.
BY THE WAY, THOSE PICTURES SOLD AT A HEFTY PRICE.
OH, THE GUY YOU WERE CAST WITH FOR **ZURU, RIGHT?
Argh... that was way back in Volume 5...

Coming through!
THIS WAY.
SURE. UNTIL 5:00 PM.
I HAVE FIVE GUESTS VISITING TO WORK ON A PROJECT.
This is the first time we've seen inside the dorm.
TOK TOK TOK
WELL? COME ON!
TOKTOKTOK

REQUESTED BY MIYABI KITANO FROM OSAKA.
THE POOR ASSIS-TANT.
This is so wrong
HOPE! ♡
YOU THINK I'M FULFILLING THAT REQUEST?
HEH HEH HEH
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SHOES?
YOU BRING SLIPPERS FOR INDOORS?
HEY! COME IN!
WE'RE HERE!
HASUKAWA FROM ROOM 210. YOU HAVE VISITORS.
DING DONG

Translation Notes

Page 8 New Year's Day is Japan's biggest cultural and religious holiday Businesses shut down from December 31 to January 3 as families gather to throw *bonenkai* (year forgetting) parties Most people visit their local temple or shrine, where they can draw fortunes and buy good-luck amulets for the coming year Mitsuru's family schedules its annual temple cleaning at the end of December to prepare for the crowds and festivities of New Year's

Page 17 Mitsuru's high-speed chops are drawn in parody of the popular 1980s action manga *Fist of the North Star* The manga involves the adventures of the outlandishly powerful martial artist Kenshiro as he fights for survival in a postapocalyptic world

Page 126 The students are playing the Chinese tile game *mah-jongg Richi* and *Ron* are *mah-jongg* hands in the Japanese version of the game *Richi* is one tile to win; *Ron* is a complete win

Page 147 In Japan blood type is believed to influence personality This idea was popularized by psychologist Furukawa Takeji in the 1930s and continues to be a widespread belief blood types are discussed in much the same way as astrological signs People with blood type O are supposed to have "hot" personalities They're creative, strong-willed and outgoing, but they're also thoughtless and have trouble finishing what they begin Sixty percent of Japanese prime ministers have been type O

Page 149 Golden Week is a week running from the end of April to the beginning of May that incorporates no fewer than four national holidays Greenery Day April 29 is an environmental holiday established in honor of the Emperor Showa who died in 1989 and was famous as a nature lover Constitution Day May 3 commemorates the signing of the Japanese constitution in 1947 May 4 is "Between Day" established because, according to Japanese law, a day that falls between two holidays is also declared a holiday And May 5 is Children's Day the day of the Boys' Festival On this day families honor their sons with carp streamers, samurai dolls and public festivities (The Girls' Festival, a much smaller and quieter affair, is March 3.)

Nearly all businesses and public institutions in Japan handle this influx of holidays by taking the entire week off Golden Week is thus a week-long holiday filled with festivals parties and other events It's one of Japan's three major holiday seasons, along with New Year's, discussed above and Obon a festival in July or August honoring the dead

Page 174 *Kanpai* is the Japanese equivalent of "Cheers!"

Page 180 Twenty-seven yen is equal to about two American cents One hundred and five yen is less than ten cents Yikes

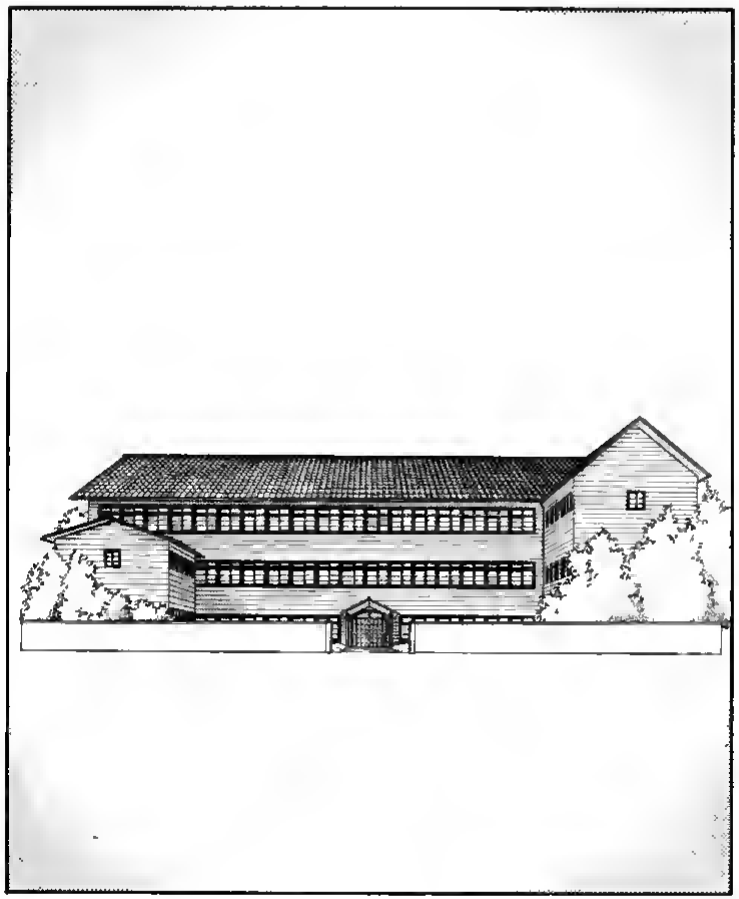
Page 184 Pachinko is a ubiquitous gambling game in Japan, something like a cross between a slot machine and pinball Gambling is technically illegal in Japan but pachinko parlors circumvent the law by rewarding players with prizes rather than money The prizes can then be exchanged at a booth just outside the parlor for cold, hard cash

Page 206 In a series of 1970 commercials, actor Charles Bronson was shown using Mandom face cream and saying, "Hmm Mandom! This was the first of countless Japanese ad campaigns to feature A-list celebrities, often American movie stars hired at multimillion-dollar fees. In the recent film *Lost in Translation* Bill Murray plays a Hollywood actor visiting Japan for such a job

Page 212 The Hanada Brothers mentioned here are Wakahanada and Takahanada top sumo wrestlers during the 1980s and 1990s and a driving force behind the popularity of sumo during that period The Japanese press and paparazzi had a field day when Takahanada announced his engagement to idol singer Miyazawa Rie The engagement was later broken off upsetting many fans.

Page 213 Wink was a female idol duo at around the time *Greenwood* originally ran The *Tale of Genji* by Murasaki Shikibu is a classic of Japanese literature and is often cited as the first novel ever written It tells the story of Genji a handsome young nobleman and his many love affairs

Page 218 Tony Tani was a popular comedian and entertainer at around the time of this story He did look a bit like a deranged Frenchman



• THANK YOU VERY MUCH •
JUNE 9TH, 1991

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ISBN-13: 978-1-4215-0324-0
ISBN-10: 1-4215-0324-7

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